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WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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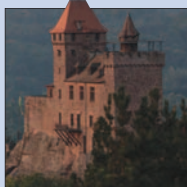
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Well-balanced
sci-fi shooter comes
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NFL



Sliding, diving QBs
play off instinct
instead of safety

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Obama's war plan moves forward

Congress poised to approve strategy for arming Syrian rebels against Islamic State

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Worries swirled this week on Capitol Hill over arming foreign fighters and entering into another war in the Middle East.

But Congress set aside deep misgivings about the Obama administration's new offensive against the Islamic State and was poised Thursday to quickly approve one of its key provisions: equipping and training Syrian

rebels as an opposition force.

The authority to send support to the fighters was passed 273-156 Wednesday evening by the House as part of a temporary federal budget bill that will fund the military through December. The Senate was expected to pass the budget and Syria measure late Thursday, after Stars and Stripes' deadline.

The rally to war was a striking shift from one year ago, when Congress rejected an administration plan to intervene in Syria

INSIDE

Spain to send Patriot
missiles to Turkey's
border with Syria

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and polls showed the public was weary from more than a decade of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. In recent weeks, the Islamic State's quick advance through Iraq and its beheading of two American journalists galvanized

support in both chambers and across party lines for striking the group.

"Their ideology is really straightforward — they want to destroy us," Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, said Thursday. "This threat exists and we have to confront it."

Still, doubt over the Obama administration's plan dominated Hill hearings and debates.

SEE CONGRESS ON PAGE 10

CRISIS IN UKRAINE



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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ukrainian army cadets sit on their helmets during a break at Exercise Rapid Trident near Yavoriv, Ukraine, on Wednesday with soldiers from the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade. Roughly 700 Ukrainian troops are taking part in the combat drills, which run through Sept. 26.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have crazy family members who I don't want contacting me through Facebook."

— Heklina, a San Francisco drag queen who is among those sparring with Facebook after the social media site began deleting profiles, citing its requirement that users go by their "real names" on the site

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Air Force drops 'so help me God' requirement, will allow airmen to re-enlist
2. Soldier flying home to surprise family in Texas dies en route
3. Retired general says political correctness is deadly to US
4. German police to crack down on speeding in 24-hour blitz
5. US troops dispatched to fight Ebola will find an epidemic out of control, UN says

COMING SOON



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MILITARY

AF drops oath's 'God' requirement

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced Wednesday it would drop a requirement for airmen to say "so help me God" in oaths, backtracking after an airman had been denied re-enlistment when he crossed it out on a form last month.

Air Force officials previously told the airman, based at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., that U.S. law required the phrase to be included in the oath. The case came to light after the airman sought representation from the American Humanist Association,

a Washington-based organization that advocates for what it calls "an ethical and life-affirming philosophy free of belief in any gods."

Previously, the Air Force allowed troops to opt out of the phrase, as do the other military services.

But the Air Force issued a revised instruction in 2013 that required the phrase, with officials citing the fact that the relevant section of Title 10 of the U.S. Code contains no opt-out.

Legal experts, however, predicted the Air Force would soon backtrack, because the Supreme Court and lower courts have long held that the reference to a deity

is optional. Additionally, the U.S. Constitution explicitly forbids use of a "religious test" to hold elected office or a position of public trust.

The announcement comes after the Air Force sought a legal opinion from the Department of Defense General Counsel. The Air Force is updating its written instruction, but the new policy takes effect immediately, officials said Wednesday. The airman's current term of service is set to end in November.

"We take any instance in which airmen report concerns regarding religious freedom seriously," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "We are

making the appropriate adjustments to ensure our airmen's rights are protected."

Monica Miller, a lawyer for the American Humanist Association, said officials notified her client Wednesday afternoon that he could re-enlist.

"I am very pleased that the Department of Defense has instructed the Air Force to respect the First Amendment rights of our client by allowing him to re-enlist with the omission of 'so help me God,'" she said. "I sincerely hope that this opinion from the DOD settles the issue once and for all."

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New chief petty officers pinned in global ceremonies

Stars and Stripes

Those selected this year to become chief petty officers were pinned Tuesday at official ceremonies held on land and at sea worldwide.

Family, friends and fellow servicemembers attended.

It was the 121st class of chief petty officers to join the chiefs' mess after about six weeks of rigorous training that mentally and physically test the selectees.

"It's surreal. Honestly, it's the greatest day of our lives," Chief Petty Officer Jose Alonso told Stars and Stripes soon after he was pinned with his anchor at Naval Support Activity Bahrain. The anchor collar device is a trademark of the chief petty officer's uniform.

Holders of the chief's rank, established in 1893, are charged with leading sailors and maintaining good order and discipline in the Navy. According to the CPO creed, the rank carries with it "responsibilities and privileges that do not appear in print" and have no official standing.

Chiefs are known for being a fountain of wisdom about the Navy. "Ask the chief," is a common expression sailors use when faced with a tough challenge.

"It's totally beyond words on what it really feels like, but it's actually happening. It's nothing I could have really truly anticipated," said Chief Petty Officer Vincent Lindwall, who was also pinned at NSA Bahrain. "I'm going to do my best to make sure I live up to this anchor."

news@stripes.com



SHOBHANA R. McEWEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



KEGAN E. KAY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Above: Chief Petty Officer David West, from Mount Vernon, Wash., receives his cover during a pinning ceremony for newly selected chiefs in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. Left: Chief petty officer selectees march while singing cadence during a chief pinning ceremony at Naval Air Facility Altsig.

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WAR/MILITARY

NATO: 'Spearhead' force will be ready soon

By DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

SZCZECIN, Poland — NATO's new rapid-reaction "spearhead" force, meant as a deterrent to Russian aggression, should be up and running with initial capabilities in less than a year, a top alliance official said Thursday.

The creation of a 4,000- to 5,000-troop response force, which will be able to respond to a crisis in Eastern Europe within two to three days, was a key decision taken by NATO leaders earlier this month in Wales.

The force represents a calculation by NATO that Russian President Vladimir Putin won't risk going head-to-head with the Western alliance.

Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow, the highest-ranking U.S. civilian at NATO, told The Associated Press on the sidelines of a symposium in Poland that military planners were now "working seven days a week" to finalize details of the force.

Those details should be in place to be approved by a defense ministers meeting in February, and implementation will move quickly ahead after that, he said.

"There's an expectation we will have at least an initial capacity with this much more rapid response time in less than a year from the Wales summit," he said. "It won't be all finished, but we recognize that the threats are here, we can't put this on the slow track."

Meanwhile, NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast headquarters, where the symposium was being held, is being upgraded to a "high readiness" force headquarters under the guidance of Germany, Poland and Denmark as part of the moves being made to reassure allies.

Russia seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine earlier this year, and signs indicate that it has been funneling troops, tanks and artillery to the pro-Moscow separatists who have been fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine over the past five months.

Ukraine is not a NATO member and not directly under its defense umbrella, but three other former Soviet republics have joined the

alliance since the end of the Cold War, as well as the former Soviet satellite states of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria.

In the wake of the Ukraine crisis, NATO has already increased the number of aircraft, ships and troops it has operating in the region.

It's not yet determined where the "spearhead" troops will be located, though Vershbow said the "most likely" scenario is that those from Eastern Europe will be based in their home countries, while U.S. troops might be in Germany or Italy.

They would train regularly together and be able to rapidly deploy to Eastern European NATO countries in time of need, where

the alliance will preposition supplies, logistical hubs and command and control operations, Vershbow said.

"Having a forward presence provides a deterrent; a demonstration that if you, Russia, or any other aggressor, cross the border you're not just going to encounter Latvians, or Estonians or Lithuanians or Poles, you're going to encounter Americans, Brits, Germans — in other words you're going to be encountering NATO," he said. "Backing that up with the spearhead, which means forces that can arrive within a matter of days, adds to the deterrent effect that we would be there in time ... to deal with all kind of contingencies."

Two sides close on how to release results of Afghanistan election

By SLOBODAN LEXIK
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Differences over releasing results of the disputed presidential election are holding up final agreement on a power-sharing deal between the two candidates to succeed President Hamid Karzai that would pave the way for finalizing a pact to allow U.S.-led troops to remain in the country next year, officials from both camps said Thursday.

Aides to former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani said Tuesday that the two sides were close to an agreement that would end months of uncertainty after a two-round election that each side claims was rigged by the other.

The two have promised to accept the results of a U.N.-monitored investigation into vote-rigging, which included a massive but recent recount.

Kate Clark, a researcher with the Afghan Analysts Network, said the two camps were wrangling over the percentages of the election's final results.

Representatives for both Ghani and Abdullah said the only significant unresolved issue was how to release the results of the U.N. audit, which reportedly invalidated a large number of ballots suspected to be fraudulent.

"Abdullah's team asked that the audit results not show a big difference in order to avoid angering supporters of the losing candidate, because this could trigger violence," said a member of Ghani's campaign, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"Ghani disagreed with the request and asked that the election commission should announce the actual result of the audit," he said.

Abdullah's spokesman, Mujib Rahman Rahimi, confirmed on local radio that Abdullah's repre-

sentatives had raised this issue.

Both campaigns stressed that they had settled most of the outstanding issues involved in establishing a new chief executive's position in the Cabinet that would be chosen by the losing candidate — presumably Abdullah.

The U.S. and NATO are anxious for a president to be named, as the clock is ticking on the deadline for all foreign combat troops to withdraw by the end of the year. The terms for the follow-on mission of nearly 10,000 U.S. forces acting mostly as advisers and trainers are laid out in a bilateral security agreement agreed early this year. Karzai refused to sign it; both candidates have said they would, but until they do, a similar NATO agreement is also on hold.

The U.S. proposed formation of a unity government as a way to break the impasse after Abdullah claimed "industrial-scale" fraud in the April election, in which he led, and the June runoff in which initial results showed Ghani with a commanding lead, prompting the U.N.-supervised audit of the 8 million ballots cast.

The audit was completed last week, but the results have not been announced.

Local media reported that representatives of the two campaigns were meeting in the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. An embassy spokeswoman refused to confirm that, but said U.S. Ambassador James Cunningham was directly engaged in the talks.

On Wednesday, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters in Washington that Cunningham and the special representative for Afghanistan/Pakistan, Dan Feldman, were "both on the ground there talking to each of the candidates, helping move this forward, and hopefully as soon as possible."

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Warm welcome

A message for Maj. Andrew McDonald, left, decorates the car as his wife, Lori, helps load his bags after his unit returned Tuesday from a deployment to Afghanistan with the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Macon, Ga. Two hundred Guardsmen returned home Tuesday from a nine-month deployment during which they provided security and facilitated the transfers of U.S. military installations to their Afghan counterparts.

Drone crashes near Pakistani border

By JOSH SMITH
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — An unarmed coalition reconnaissance drone crashed Wednesday in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan, Afghan police and international military officials said.

"There were no reports of enemy forces in the area at the time of the incident, nor were there any reports of injuries to

civilian personnel or damage to property," a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force told Stars and Stripes in an email.

The international coalition continues to conduct reconnaissance in support of Afghan forces, as well as for its own ongoing military operations.

ISAF officials would not confirm the type of remotely piloted aircraft that went down but said it was not armed.

The aircraft, which was operat-

ing from the coalition airfield in Jalalabad, went down in the Khas Kunar district of Kunar province, which borders Pakistan.

The crash site was in a remote, unpopulated area controlled by Afghan local police militias, Kunar provincial Police Chief Abdul Habib Saidkhail said.

At the request of American military officials, his officers retrieved the wreckage and returned it to ISAF forces, Saidkhail said.

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PACIFIC

Soldiers get suspended sentences for disturbance

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Three 2nd Infantry Division soldiers were given suspended sentences Wednesday — essentially putting them on probation — for causing a drunken disturbance at a South Korean water park.

The division later issued a statement that said situations like the May 31 incident at Everland theme park's Caribbean Bay attraction undermine the volunteer work other 21D soldiers perform in the community, from serving in soup kitchens to distributing coal and volunteering at orphanages.

"I will not allow careless acts of

indiscipline to tarnish 21D reputation and our strong relationship with our Korean neighbors," division commander Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal said in the statement.

Three Camp Casey-based soldiers — Pvt. Marcus Cobb, Pfc. Alex Wilkerson and Spc. Nicholas Myers — were sentenced to six months on convictions of obstruction of performance of official duties.

Myers also was convicted of committing an indecent act by force and received a 10-month sentence, according to the Suwon District Court. The sentences for all three were suspended for two years. The maximum sentence for the obstruction charge is five years, and the indecent act charge

carried a maximum 10-year term.

Police have said the soldiers, who admitted wrongdoing last month, began smoking at the park, and a female employee was guiding them to a designated smoking area when one of them touched her forehead, waist and back, according to previous statements from the Yongin Dongbu Police chief of criminal affairs.

A second soldier gave a worker at the park's information desk a high-five but then did not let go of her hand and told her she was sexy. Authorities said that while the soldier who had touched the other female employee moved his hips or buttocks, the second soldier made a remark the worker

thought was sexual in nature and humiliated her.

One of the soldiers then punched a male employee in the face, kicked him and refused to cooperate with authorities, according to police. An officer also was punched and an assailant spit in his face. The soldiers told police they were drunk and remembered little of what happened at the park.

Police also said the soldiers had been shooting at least one water pistol filled with alcohol at other patrons and stealing their food.

Suwon District Court Judge Choi Chul-min said the soldiers' lack of prior criminal records, admissions of wrongdoing and expressions of regret for their actions played a role in determining

their sentences. The fact that they had been drinking — something that, in Korean courts, often leads to a lighter sentence because defendants are believed to be unable to control themselves — did not excuse their behavior.

"What they did is not minor," Choi said, referring to the assault on the police officer.

21D said it has cooperated fully with local police to make sure the soldiers were given due process under South Korean law and the Status of Forces Agreement, which sets legal protections for members of the U.S. military community stationed on the peninsula.

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Compensation expected soon for Philippine reef damage

BY MATT BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Philippines is expected to get a U.S. government payout soon to compensate for damage caused when a Navy minesweeper ran aground on a protected reef more than a year ago.

U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg told reporters Monday that the U.S. government was in the final stages of reviewing a Foreign Claims Act compensation request that was received June 13. He said he expected an announcement "very soon."

"The United States deeply regrets this incident and the damage caused to the reef," embassy spokeswoman Anna Richey wrote in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "We are continuing to work closely with the government of the Philippines to resolve the issue of compensation for damage to the reef."

No one was injured when the USS Guardian ran aground on Tubbataha Reef around 2:25 a.m. on Jan. 17, 2013, while transiting the Sulu Sea after a port visit in Subic Bay. The crew of 79 was removed the next day during a harrowing exit from the ship, which took on water and was later cut up and removed in pieces. The ship's leadership was later relieved of duty.

Philippine media outlets are reporting that more than 2,300 square meters of coral reef were damaged after the ship became lodged on the World Heritage Site and slid around for weeks. The size of the payment has been estimated at upward of \$1.4 million.

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Top: Capt. Kevin Adams performs triage on a simulated chemical weapons attack casualty outside the clinic during an Osan Air Base on Wednesday.

Above: Airman cut off the simulated casualty's Mission Oriented Protective Posture suit for decontamination.



PHOTOS BY ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

An airman posing as a simulated casualty with chemical weapons injuries lies in a holding chamber in the control room at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

S. Korea-based unit takes part in chemical attack response exercise

BY ARMANDO R. LIMON
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Airman with the 51st Fighter Wing responded to simulated chemical warfare attacks and performed other defensive postures during the Beverly Midnight 14-4 exercise this week at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

The 51st Medical Group's contamination control team performed a mass casualty decontamination at the Osan clinic on Wednesday. The scenario challenged medical personnel to clean a potential chemical warfare casualty before the patient could receive medical treatment inside the clinic.

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MILITARY

New allowance aims to ease long deployments

Stars and Stripes

Sailors and Marines on lengthy deployments began accruing a new allowance Wednesday aimed at making long tours at sea more tolerable.

Known as Hardship Duty Pay-Tempo, the allowance applies to all active-duty and reserve troops on operational deployments of more than 220 days. It is prorated at \$16.50 for every day over the

threshold, with a cap of \$495 a month. Authorized by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus this summer for a span of two years, the incentive officially went into effect Wednesday.

It may be months before the money hits troops' accounts, however. The military pay system must first be updated, according to a Navy news release, a process scheduled to be completed by year's end.

The change affects ships currently on deployment, including the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, whose deployment in February was recently extended, and the USS George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, which departed Virginia in February for a nine-month tour. The allowance does not affect deployments that ended before Wednesday, the news release said.

The benefit is the latest an-

nounced by a Navy concerned about the impact of more frequent and lengthier deployments on its force. Sea duty billets remain difficult to fill, and the service is concerned that retention issues could follow a gradually improving economy.

The Navy increased pay rates for sailors at sea earlier this year, and it kept tuition assistance at 100 percent despite initial plans to curtail the benefit.

The service has also expanded eligibility for its Command Advancement Program, which allows sailors at sea to be promoted early and without an advancement exam.

Carrier groups are now making nine- and 10-month cruises, compared with the six-month tours common in the past.

The Navy wants to standardize deployment length to eight months.

Soldier, DOD civilian killed in Afghanistan are identified

From wire reports

A soldier based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and a civilian worker for the Defense Department have been killed Tuesday in Afghanistan.

The Defense Department said Wednesday that Maj. Michael J. Donahue, 41, of Columbus, Ohio, and Stephen Byus, 39, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, died Tuesday in Kabul of wounds suffered from an enemy attack.

Donahue was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg.

Byus was a member of the Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime in Columbus, Ohio, working as a supply specialist. He was assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan.

In addition, a Polish soldier died in the suicide car bombing near the American Embassy in Kabul.

Donahue was on his third combat tour when he was killed. Donahue was an operations support officer.

The fallen soldier's family could not immediately be reached for comment. However, Donahue's battalion commander Lt. Col. Gabriel Barton said in a statement, "The Bargon Family has suffered a great loss today, and we would like to express our deepest condolences to the Donahue Family. Maj. Michael Donahue was an exceptional officer and a huge part of our team and our family. We will never forget him."

According to Fort Bragg, Donahue enlisted in the Army in February 1996 and commissioned through Officer Candidate School in April 2000.

Following a series of assignments, he arrived at Fort Bragg in July 2012.

Donahue is survived by his wife, Sherri, and their children Victoria, Seamus and Bailey.

The Associated Press and Boston Herald contributed to this report

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VETERANS

Psychologist reprimanded over vet's evaluation

By AMY BETH HANSON
The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — A Department of Veterans Affairs psychologist whose evaluation downgraded the disabling effects of a veteran's brain injury has been publicly reprimanded by the Montana Board of Psychologists for practicing outside the scope of his expertise.

The board's Sept. 4 ruling, first reported by the Great Falls Tribune, also prohibits Dr. Robert Bateen from performing neuropsychological evaluations without additional training. Bateen said he had been going out work under VA policies.

Capt. Charles Gatlin suffered a traumatic brain injury in September 2006 when a car bomb went off near him in Iraq. He underwent three comprehensive neuropsychological exams.

In the final one, in August 2009, a neuropsychologist determined Gatlin's cognitive and motor deficits were likely stable and he was retired from the Army with a 70 percent disability rating, which was used to determine his benefits.

Two years later, after Gatlin moved to Montana, his application for VA benefits required he be evaluated at the VA Medical Center at Fort Harrison. Bateen's evaluation determined that Gatlin's cognitive test scores were in the average range — the board found they were not — and any cognitive dysfunction was mild and suggested a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. The evaluation resulted in a 10 percent disability rating.

Gatlin and his wife, Ariana Del Negro, challenged the decision through the Board of Veterans' Appeals, arguing that Bateen used improper testing, did not evaluate all potential cognitive deficits, did not give weight to the earlier, more thorough test results, and offered opinions in an area of psychology for which he was not qualified.

The veteran's agency rejected all appeals along with a request for a referral to a neuropsychologist.

Del Negro said they took the case to the state licensing board, which initially agreed with their arguments in November 2013.

The decision said Bateen is not absolved from having to meet a standard of care required under his state license by saying he was following VA policy.

Discharges could change over PTSD

By TOM PHILPOTT

As many as 80,000 veterans who suffered from post-traumatic stress and received other-than-honorable discharges can use evidence of their PTSD to petition service boards to upgrade the bad discharges.

At stake for individuals is removal of lifelong stigmas that have scarred reputations, limited job prospects and blocked critical veteran benefits.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel this month directed that boards for correction of military records or naval records begin to "fully and carefully consider every petition based on PTSD brought by each veteran."

His Sept. 3 memo gives Army, Navy and Air Force secretaries "supplemental guidance" that boards are to use when petitioners seek discharge upgrades claiming that unrecognized post-traumatic stress disorder caused misbehavior that led to other-than-honorable discharges.

Many of the veterans who will gain from the new guidance served during the Vietnam War, before the medical community recognized PTSD as a disabling, service-connected condition. PTSD received a medical diagnostic code in 1980, five years after that war officially ended.

Hagel instructed boards to give "liberal consideration" to any language found in medical records describing one or more symptoms that meet diagnostic criteria for PTSD or related conditions. Liberal consideration also is to be used when veterans' civilian providers have diagnosed PTSD.

And where PTSD "is reasonably determined to have existed at the time of discharge," it is to be "a mitigating factor" in the misconduct that generated an other-than-honorable discharge.

Hagel likely is reacting to several recent developments, including a federal class action lawsuit filed last March on behalf of Vietnam veterans that generated a wave of publicity and attracted an influential advocate in Hagel's former Senate colleague, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Blumenthal said last week that many veterans went to war when PTSD "was undiagnosed and untreated" and it "caused many of them, particularly from the Vietnam era, to be given less-than-honorable discharges."

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale University Law School filed the class-action lawsuit, Monk v. Mabus, with five

MILITARY UPDATE

combat veterans and three veterans' organizations named as plaintiffs. Their complaint says that as a result of undiagnosed PTSD, these veterans were unable to perform assigned duties and were discharged for misconduct attributable to post-traumatic stress. Yet over the years, the lawsuit contends, the military "has categorically refused to correct these wrongful discharges."

One plaintiff, Conley Monk, 66, joined the Marine Corps at age 20. Nine months later he was in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, flinching at enemy mortar rounds and sniper fire and, for him, living in a nightmarish habitat of mosquitoes and snakes, so different from what he had known.

The day he arrived in Vietnam with the 9th Motor Transport Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, the airport came under a barrage of mortar fire. From July through November 1969, he drove troop trucks and "many times we would be under fire," he recalled. "Every day, I prayed God would bring me back home to the United States."

When his unit redeployed to Okinawa, but a return to Vietnam remained a terrifying possibility, Monk said he suffered flashbacks

from undiagnosed post-traumatic stress. He used drugs, too, and was absent without leave.

One night, on returning to his unit, his sergeant grabbed him and accused him wrongly of theft. They fought. At his nonjudicial punishment proceeding, Monk said, "They offered me an undesirable discharge. I wanted to be relieved. I wanted to come home from the military. I accepted it."

But Monk soon learned a ticket home on a bad discharge cost him a lot. While friends attended college on the GI Bill, Monk needed student loans. He wasn't eligible for a VA guaranteed home loan or VA health care or disability compensation, which he sought for a foot condition he blamed on the dampness of Vietnam. The wartime stress also stuck around.

"I used to have nightmares of Vietnam," Monk said. "And whenever I would hear [a vehicle] backfire, I would hit the ground, thinking I was under fire. I would wake up in the middle of the night with cold sweats ... change my T-shirt and go back to sleep."

Fortunately for Monk, his "bad paper" didn't affect employment. He worked a full career as a substance abuse counselor in New Haven, Conn. But today, he has PTSD and Type 2 diabetes, both compensable conditions if a Navy board will upgrade his discharge to general or honorable. Hagel's guidelines have no effect on bad-conduct or dishonorable discharges.

Advocates for Vietnam vets

point to a sharp contrast in their treatment with that of Iraq and Afghanistan vets see today. Under a recent policy change to protect PTSD victims, the services cannot separate a member with a bad paper discharge without screening for PTSD and traumatic brain injury. The idea is that members with behavioral issues might be more deserving of mental health care and medical discharges than punitive discharges.

That wasn't the mindset during Vietnam and hasn't been the practice, even recently, of boards for correction of records, lawyer Rebecca Izzo wrote in a lengthy analysis of the issue published last spring in Yale Law Journal.

Not "every veteran with PTSD and a bad discharge deserves an upgrade," Izzo wrote. "However, under current practice, the [Army Board for Correction of Military Record] consistently disregards later evidence of PTSD, making it nearly impossible for veterans with bad discharges arising from conduct due to undiagnosed PTSD to get discharge upgrades."

Hagel's guidance will address that criticism.

Kaufman said vets who want help petitioning boards can call the legal services clinic at 203-436-9270 or search for legal services in their communities at Stateside Legal Services' website, <http://statesidelegal.org/>.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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MILITARY

Debate over VA death links could affect vets' lawsuits

By HEATH DRUZIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — While it seems certain that Veterans Affairs hospitals offered substandard care to veterans, some of whom died while waiting months for treatment, getting compensation in court is likely to prove a tough fight for the stream of veterans and survivors expected to sue the government in the coming months.

"If you give people the impression that this is easy, they're going to be real frustrated," said Ronald Abrams, joint executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. "It's combat — the VA is not playing nice, because you're in court and it's an adversarial process."

Outrage over a growing scandal that cost Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki his job increased after a testy Congressional hearing Wednesday at which congressmen sparred with acting VA Inspector General Richard Griffin over whether delays in care were responsible for patient deaths and whether VA officials influenced the IG's office to soften its report. A doctor working for the IG, under intense questioning, acknowledged that the delays could have contributed to the deaths. This was touted as a reversal by House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla.

"The confirmation from IG officials today that delays in VA medical care contributed to the deaths of Phoenix-area veterans and IG officials' admission that they couldn't rule out the possibility that delays caused deaths changes the entire bottom line of the IG's Phoenix report," he said in a press release.

An IG spokeswoman refuted that notion Thursday, pointing out that the language of the report never ruled out a link.

"As Mr. Griffin stated at the hearing, delays may have contributed to patient deaths or they may not have contributed to patient deaths," VA IG spokeswoman Catherine Gromek said in an emailed response. "We have never wavered from our statement that we could not conclusively prove that delays caused the death."

While much of the debate swirling around the language of the report seems to be about semantics and headlines, Abrams said it could be important in the courtroom, where the question of whether delays in care are the equivalent of medical negligence could be key. "You're going to have to show by a preponderance of evidence that VA delays more likely than not caused their death, which is a high standard," he said.

The scandal started with revelations that Phoenix VA Health Care officials had created a secret wait list and falsified data to make it look like patients were getting prompt care, when many were languishing for months or more without getting appointments.

Soon, though, it became clear that the problems were national and now new VA Secretary Bob McDonald is scrambling to enact reforms.

Lawsuits stemming from the VA scandal would be filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act, which allows people to sue for injury or death caused by the federal government. Proving tort claims are notoriously tricky, and Abrams

says veterans who believe they were affected by substandard VA care or delays should go to their local bar association and get a list of lawyers who specialize in tort law. These cases will be complex and have statutes of limitations, he said, meaning filing in a timely manner is important. "This is not the usual VA claim," he said.

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MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Department of Veterans Affairs Acting Inspector General Richard Griffin, left, testifies during a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on "Scheduling Manipulation and Veteran Deaths in Phoenix: Examination of the OIG's Final Report" on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

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CRISIS IN UKRAINE



Lithuanian soldiers look for danger during convoy training at Exercise Rapid Trident.



Weapons and gear of 173rd Airborne Brigade soldiers sit in the sand near Yavoriv, Ukraine.



Georgian soldiers practice a drill during cordon-and-search training on Thursday.

Training with a country at war

Showing solidarity with an ally, US joins forces with Ukraine in Rapid Trident exercise



Sgt. Kevin Crosby, of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, gives a thumbs up after showing Romanian soldiers cordon-and-search tactics.



British soldiers keep alert during convoy training. About 1,300 troops are taking part in the exercise.



Pfc. Luis Carrera, of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, takes notes during traffic control training.



A Ukrainian army cadet "ambushes" American soldiers during convoy training at Exercise Rapid Trident.

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

YAVORIV, Ukraine — Young Ukrainian cadets lay concealed in the bushes, prepared to test their skills against seasoned troops from the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Fake grenades exploded and the sound of gunfire burst from the bushes as the Ukrainians took the fight to the U.S. soldiers, who were eventually forced to retreat from the onslaught.

It's just an exercise. But for these up-and-coming Ukrainian officers and hundreds of active-duty troops, this year's U.S. Army Europe-led Rapid Trident has added meaning, given the war that has raged in Ukraine's east between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists.

"I think it is good training, learning how to fight the terrorists," said Mykhailo Kutnyi, 20, who is in his final year of military school, using the term the government applies to the separatists. "We learn how to make ambush. We learn how to stop the column and destroy the enemy."

Another cadet, Andriy Shapovalov, said working with foreign militaries is a way to improve his fighting skills, which could come in handy if he deploys to the east next year as a lieutenant. "I know what the enemy will be doing in ambush and I'm prepared," said Shapovalov, 20. "I think we are going east to help our comrades."

Roughly 700 Ukrainian troops are taking part in the combat drills at the International Peace Keeping and Security Center in Yavoriv, a sprawling base in western Ukraine that is among the largest training sites in all of Europe. A 200-strong company from the U.S. 173rd Airborne and servicemembers from 13 other nations — about 1,300 troops in all — are also taking part in the exercise, which runs through Sept. 26.

While many of the Ukrainian participants aren't poised for an immediate deployment east, other troops on base are gearing up for war. Waves of Ukrainian forces are rotating through the base for pre-deployment training. They're out of sight, but the near-constant sound of

heavy live fire in the distance serves as a reminder that Ukraine is a country at war.

In March, Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula, and since then pro-Russia militants have been waging an insurgency in the country's east. Ukrainian, U.S. and NATO officials have accused Russia of sending tanks and soldiers into the country, a move that has brought relations between the West and Moscow to a post-Cold War low.

At the moment, a fragile cease-fire is in place, but outbreaks of violence continue, threatening to reignite the larger conflict.

Army 1st Lt. Jacob Wijnberg, a platoon leader with the 173rd, had come into the Army expecting to deploy to Afghanistan. But since Russia's moves in Ukraine, he has been leading troops through a series of training missions in Poland, part of an effort to reassure wary NATO allies on or

near Russia's borders.

"It's not the mission you expected, but it's been pretty fulfilling," Wijnberg said. "You're helping to carry out a part of American foreign policy and strategy, which is great."

While the conflict in Ukraine's east isn't the main focus of Rapid Trident, some troops say the exercise is a way to show solidarity with an ally.

Ukraine is not a member of NATO, but it is an alliance partner. NATO has a similar relationship with another former Soviet republic, Georgia, which has the status of "aspirant." Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, ostensibly to protect minorities in a breakaway region.

"It was only about six years ago that Russian tanks rolled into Georgia," said Lt. Beka Metreveli, a Georgian platoon leader. "So we've experienced the same thing. We've always been close with Ukraine, and we're showing support to our brothers."

SEE TRIDENT ON PAGE 9

A Romanian soldier patrols a road during training at Exercise Rapid Trident on Wednesday near Yavoriv, Ukraine.

PHOTOS BY
MICHAEL
ABRAMS/
Stars and
Stripes



CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Trident: Exercises are key for US in ensuring NATO allies can operate together on battlefield

FROM PAGE 8

The feeling runs both ways. "The Georgians for us are like brothers," said Ukrainian Maj. Maksym Klunnyk, who serves as a trainer in the army. "They support us with their soul and they, along with the other countries, send a message — we are with you."

For the U.S., such exercises are key to building ties and ensuring that NATO members and non-alliance partners can operate together on the battlefield. The focus is on a range of tactics, such as countering roadside bombs, fighting through ambushes and urban warfare.

Sgt. 1st Class Brett Coffman, a trainer and mentor from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Grafenwoehr, Germany, who is observing the drills, said one area of focus is getting some units unaccustomed to frequent training to become more assertive in the field. "I'm pushing them to react faster," Coffman said during a convoy exercise. "Sometimes, they're not as aggressive, and the reaction time is slower."

During one convoy run, a team of Lithuanians got the message.

When confronted by the enemy, the soldiers unloaded their weapons and dismounted from their trucks to push the enemy back rather than staying in their vehicles.

Still, there were areas for improvement. When the ambush hit, the trucks came to a halt and jammed up together.

"That's not good. You throw a grenade and there will be a lot of casualties," Staff Sgt. Travis Stackman, a mentor from the JMRC, told the Lithuanians.

During the opening week of the exercise, troops are working on skills that will later be applied in a large field exercise. Sometimes the tips are a little unconventional.

Klunnyk, the Ukrainian instructor, gave a team of U.S. soldiers a lesson on securing an outpost in a contested area, based on tactics Ukrainian troops use in the east.

Among the tips: Befriend the wild dogs and feed them well. They're a cheap, early warning system for approaching threats, Klunnyk said.

"In the eastern part, our guys use these techniques and, believe me, they work."

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Ward, right, of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, talks with British soldiers during convoy training at Exercise Rapid Trident near Yavoriv, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

Ukrainian leader asks for lethal military aid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States will provide \$46 million in new security assistance to Ukraine's military but stop short of fulfilling an urgent request from Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko for lethal aid to help his country fight against Russian-backed separatists.

Poroshenko pleaded his case during remarks Thursday to a rare joint meeting of Congress. While he thanked the U.S. for the nonlethal equipment it is providing his country's beleaguered military, he said more was needed to stop the provocations near the Russian border.

"Blankets and night vision goggles are important, but one cannot win a war with a blanket," he said during a 40-minute address that was repeatedly interrupted by applause from lawmakers.

Poroshenko was to hold talks with President Barack Obama at the White House later Thursday, a meeting that sends a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin about the West's support for Ukraine.

Ahead of Thursday's meeting, U.S. officials said Obama would announce a security assistance package that will provide Ukraine with counterarmor radar to help detect incoming artillery fire. The U.S. also will provide vehicles and patrol boats, body armor and heavy engineering equipment.

Despite some support for Poroshenko's request within the Obama administration, officials said the president continues to

oppose lethal assistance and does not envision directly arming the Ukrainian military as an effective way to end the conflict.

Lawmakers have also pressed Obama to ramp up military aid to Ukraine. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was expected to vote Thursday on bipartisan legislation that would increase military and nonmilitary assistance, as well as impose broad sanctions on Russia's defense, energy and financial sectors.

'Blankets and night vision goggles are important, but one cannot win a war with a blanket.'

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

committee's chairman, Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat, said. "In the face of Russian aggression, Ukraine needs our steadfast and determined support, not an ambiguous response. We are left with no choice but to apply tough sanctions against Russia, coupled with military assistance to Ukraine."

The legislation would authorize \$350 million in fiscal 2015 for military assistance, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, ammunition, counter-artillery radars and surveillance drones.

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WAR ON TERRORISM



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

World chips in to help fight militants

Members of the Canadian air force load ammunition into a plane bound for Iraq. The Canadian military is flying 500 metric tons of ammunition from the Czech military to the Kurdish Regional Government to help fight Islamic State militants.

Spain will step in to fill Patriot void left by Dutch departure from Turkey

BY MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Spain on Wednesday said it will send Patriot missile batteries and 130 soldiers to Turkey as NATO mulls extending the deployment of missile defenses near the Syrian border.

The troops and missiles are expected to replace Dutch units in Adana, Turkey, when the Dutch withdraw in January 2015.

The Dutch — along with the U.S. and Germany — each deployed two Patriot batteries in early 2013 to protect Turkey's southern border from spillover from Syria's raging civil war. The deployment was sparked by sporadic cross-border shelling in October 2012 that killed a number of Turkish civilians.

Initially planned as a yearlong deployment, the U.S., Germany and the Netherlands all extended the assignment through January 2015. The Netherlands announced in August that it no longer had the resources to continue the mission and would pull out after that date.

"There has been some work done to find a replacement for the Dutch," U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jay

Johnson, a NATO spokesman, said.

The mission was scheduled to end in January, Johnson said.

"Right now, we're currently doing a review. It looks like it's going to be extended further because the threat appears to still be in Syria," Johnson said, "but the final decisions haven't been made."

In a news release from NATO headquarters, U.S. Gen. Philip Breedlove on Thursday thanked Spain for its decision to send Patriot batteries to Turkey.

"The Alliance's southern border is located in a difficult neighborhood and considerable instability remains in Syria and across the region," he said.

The potential extension of the Patriot missile mission comes as President Barack Obama is attempting to build a military coalition to deal with the self-styled Islamic State militants operating across Turkey's border in Iraq and Syria. Turkey has yet to commit to military action against the group, which is believed to be holding a number of Turkish citizens hostage.

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War veterans in House split on Syria measure

BY KEVIN FREKING
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The effort to train and arm Syrian rebels proved a tough sell with many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans now serving in the House. Wariness among veterans crossed party lines as Republicans and Democrats alike said they feared weapons and training would not be used against Americans instead of against militants seeking an Islamic state.

Overall, eight Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in the House opposed President Barack Obama's plan to arm and train the reb-

els when it cleared the House Wednesday. Seven voted for the measure, which was being considered Thursday in the Senate.

California Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter, a former Marine who served in Fallujah, said he couldn't vote for something he knows cannot work. "Arming Islamists to fight other Islamists is not a winning strategy," Hunter said Wednesday. "I don't believe the weapons and tactics that we bestow to the Islamists will only be used against America's enemies."

Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii called the proposal unrealistic, saying it would take

too long to train too few fighters. Over that time, the Islamic State militants will grow in strength, she said before voting no.

"We've heard this story before. We know how it ends," said Gabbard, who worked in a medical unit in Iraq as a member of the Army National Guard. "Look at Iraq. Look at Libya. Clearly our leaders have not learned their lesson."

Republican Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a combat surgeon who served in Iraq and voted yes, said that training vetted, moderate Syrian rebels was "one step in the right direction and it is supported by military experts."

Congress: Bill would fund arms, training for rebels

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We know the Free Syrian Army cannot take on ISIL," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, using an alternative name for the Islamist group. "You talk multi-year operations — we are talking decades, if that is going to be our salvation."

Corker said there is a growing belief that the fight against the Islamic State could take 10 years. President Barack Obama has said it will likely take several years.

Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, estimated that U.S. involvement could last six years, well past Obama's second term that ends in 2016.

"This is going to be for the entire duration of his presidency and probably the next president," he said Thursday.

The legislation authorizes funds already allocated to the Defense Department, and explicitly rules out a ground war, but it does allow the administration to redirect money to the Syrian rebels battling President Bashar Assad and the Islamic State after notifying Congress of its plans and progress.

It is attached to a continuing resolution budget bill that will fund the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims processing and investigations of improper conduct, and stave off furloughs or a shutdown while Congress works to pass annual funding.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., said the Syria effort could backfire.

Rebels equipped and trained by the U.S. could attack civilians or cause more violence in the region, she said, citing congressionally approved support for counter-revolution forces in Nicaragua in the 1980s that led to claims of kidnapping, torture and executions.

"This blood will be on our hands when this happens," she said.

Doubts also began to grow over the Obama administration pledge that no U.S. ground troops will be sent to fight again in Iraq.

The president was elected partly on a promise to wrap up the Iraq War, which was launched in 2003, and withdrew troops in 2011.

In May, Obama announced that U.S. forces in Afghanistan — the longest war in the nation's history — will be reduced to 9,800 at the end of the year.

With U.S. ground troops off the table, the administration has built a war plan that relies on local forces in Syria, the Iraqi army and Kurdish peshmarga, stepped up U.S. airstrikes and an international coalition of over 50 countries to defeat the Islamic State.

But Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey told lawmakers Tuesday that he might recommend ground forces to the president if conditions in Iraq change.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., pressed Secretary of State John Kerry on the potential escalation in the war during a hearing Wednesday.

He said local forces in the region may not be reliable enough to take on the Islamic State — Syrian rebels are focused on fighting the Assad regime, the Iraqi army may not be prepared to fight, and Kurdish forces are mainly interested in protecting their own territory in northern Iraq.

"There may come a point where, from what you are saying, that the only thing that may solve this is U.S. combat forces and we are not going to do that and ISIL can stay," he said.

Kerry again denied that ground forces would be needed, saying he would not comment on Rubio's theoretical scenarios.

His testimony in the Hill was part of an administration effort this week to whip up support for the Iraq and Syria operations — an effort met with a mixed response.

"I don't know what is going to happen here," Kerry said. "Let's start down that road and see what happens."

Kerry and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the administration believes the Syrians, Iraqis and Kurds should lead the fight to free their territory from the Islamic State and that, with support, they can be victorious.

The best opportunity to degrade and destroy ISIL, Hagel said in prepared remarks Thursday to the House Armed Services Committee, "and we strongly believe it offers the best opportunity to degrade and destroy ISIL."

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NATION

California fire threatens more than 2,000 homes

The Associated Press

POLLOCK PINES, Calif. — An out-of-control wildfire in Northern California threatened more than 2,000 homes and consumed huge swaths of timber land east of Sacramento while another town near the Oregon border took account of the damage done by a wildfire that burned 200 homes earlier in the week.

In the fire east of Sacramento, 2,500 firefighters were taking on the blaze that was threatening 2,003 homes and another 1,505 smaller structures, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

"It's been an explosive couple of days," CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant said.

The fire has burned nearly 44 square miles of trees and brush and is just 5 percent contained.

"We are faced with a large and dangerous fire," Laurence Crabtree, a U.S. Forest Service supervisor for the Eldorado National Forest, told the Sacramento Bee.

"We have had significant losses of public timber land, private timber land and watershed."

Most of the threatened homes were in Pollock Pines, 60 miles east of Sacramento. Hundreds of them are under evacuation orders, but it wasn't immediately clear exactly how many.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency late Wednesday, freeing up funds for the two fires. Brown had also secured federal grants to fight each of them.

In the town of Weed, where a blaze began Monday and raged across the community, teams of firefighters went house-to-house Wednesday to pin down damage done by a wildfire that officials estimated had destroyed 110 homes and damaged another 90.

The new figures brought a marked increase from the initial estimate that a total of 150 structures had been destroyed or damaged in the blaze that began Monday and rapidly swept across the town. Four firefighters lost

their homes.

Two churches, a community center and the library also burned to the ground, while an elementary school and the city's last wood-products mill were damaged by flames that had been pushed by 40 mph winds.

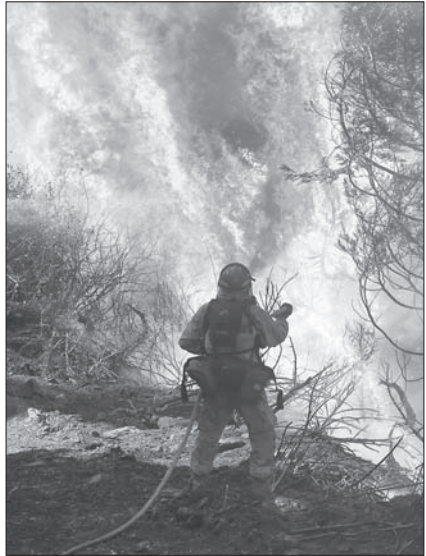
Insurance companies worked to find places to live for the people who lost their homes.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation. It was 60 percent contained after burning 375 acres.

Burned neighborhoods remained off-limits, but people have been finding ways in since the fire started.

The Rev. Bill Hofer, pastor of Weed Berean Church, said power was back on in his home, which was still standing on the edge of the devastation zone, and he was planning to return Wednesday night — despite the evacuation order — to deter vandalism.

"The more people home with the lights on, the better," he said.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

A firefighter battles a wall of flames from a fire near Fresh Pond, Calif., on Wednesday.



COURTESY OF THE ADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

Five teenagers were inside this Ford Bronco that authorities said crashed after one of the passengers lit the driver's armpit hair on fire near Boise, Idaho.

Sheriff says burned armpit hair led to Idaho accident

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An SUV full of teenagers crashed in Idaho after one of the passengers lit the driver's armpit hair on fire with a lighter, authorities said Wednesday.

All five young people in the Ford Bronco were hurt in the crash Sunday and received medical treatment, the Ada County Sheriff's Office said.

Two of the passengers, ages 15 and 16, were thrown from the vehicle, but none of the five suffered life-threatening injuries.

The Sheriff's Office said the rollover occurred after a 16-year-old boy was goofing off in the

front seat and lit Tristian Myers' armpit hair on fire while Myers, 18, was driving. The crash happened about 5:30 a.m. in south-east Boise.

Deputies cited Myers with inattentive driving, while the 16-year-old was cited for interfering with the driver's safety. The passenger's name wasn't released. A 17-year old also was in the front seat but was not cited.

Deputies also said none of the teens was wearing a seat belt, and there was evidence Myers was driving too fast.

A court date will be scheduled later for Myers, who has no listed phone number. It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney.

Rain from tropical storm falls on Ariz.

BY TERRY TANG
AND BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A weakened Pacific storm slammed much of southern Arizona, but it appeared to spare Tucson on Wednesday night.

Rainfall from remnants of Hurricane Odile was steadily hitting south and east of Tucson, according to the National Weather Service. The agency issued a flash-flood warning for Nogales, where a major street was flooded with several inches of water.

Officials in Nogales initially thought they would have to evacuate two nearby trailer parks where about 100 families live, Mayor Arturo Garino said late Wednesday. However, the water receded, and the city's public works department was able to clear the street.

"The debris on the street was

minimal," Garino said. "Everything was taken care of within an hour and a half."

A larger wash that cuts through the middle of the city was on the edge of spilling over earlier. But it also receded from an at-risk level of 12 feet to between 5 and 6 feet, Garino said. The border city, which is 70 miles south of Tucson, is downhill of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. As a result, rainwater from the Mexican side doesn't take long to seep into the city's washes.

A flash-flood watch was also in effect for four counties — Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee.

Meanwhile, a flash-flood watch for Tucson that was to expire Thursday was canceled. There was a 40 percent chance of overnight rain in Tucson, but it likely won't amount to flooding danger, according to the National Weather

Service. The city was originally expected to receive between 2 and 5 inches of rain, but it now seems to be on the edge of tropical depression Odile.

"If the rainfall occurring 50 to 80 miles south of us was over Tucson, there would be really big problems," meteorologist Gary Zell said.

Tucson residents on Wednesday morning were bracing for the possibility of an epic storm. People lined up in bumper-to-bumper traffic and scooped sand into trash and canvas tote bags as rain began to fall on Arizona.

It's the second blast of hurricane-related weather to hit the desert region in the past two weeks — the result of an especially active Pacific storm season. Odile was once a Category 3 Hurricane, but it was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time rain started falling in Arizona.

Border Patrol to begin testing body cameras

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Border Patrol purchased body cameras and will begin testing them this year at its training academy, two people briefed on the move said, as new leadership moves to blunt criticism about agents' use of force.

R. Gil Kerlikowske, who has led the Border Patrol's parent agency since March, announced the plans Tuesday to a small group of activists who have pressed for cam-

eras, according to a person who attended the briefing and spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussion was intended to be private. Testing will occur at the Border Patrol academy in Artesia, N.M.

The Customs and Border Protection commissioner didn't tell activists how many cameras were bought or discuss when or whether they would be introduced to any of the roughly 21,000 agents in the field, the person said. The meet-

ing in Detroit was the latest discussion that Kerlikowske has held with some of his most vocal critics of the Border Patrol's use of force.

Another person briefed on the plans said testing will occur from October to December and that it was unclear if or when they would be introduced in the field.

The measure is a first step toward satisfying activists who have long demanded cameras as a way to keep a check on potential abuses.

PACIFIC



COMMAND & CONTROL

Valiant Shield a lesson in interservice communication and capability

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Capt. Jarrod Dix likens the Marines and the Air Force working together to putting an Alabamian and a Scotsman together in the same room: They may speak the same language, but they have very different ideas of what makes a good football match.

Valiant Shield is the largest U.S.-only military exercise in the world, and developing new strategies to combat threats in the air, sea and cyberspace are a big part of it.

However, most participants say the biggest piece is getting the different services to figure out how to work together in an exercise so they don't have to do it on the fly in a combat zone.

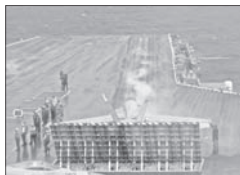
"In our case with Marines on the ground, sometimes the Air Force will be called to support them with their jets, and if they don't speak the same way ... they're going to spend way too much time just trying to talk and not getting the actual job done," said Dix, a Marine F-18 pilot out of Beaufort, S.C.

Senior officials at Valiant Shield acknowledge that the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines weren't able to work together very well in the post-Vietnam War era. They started making the effort in the 1980s and '90s.

A 1994 paper from the School of Advanced Airpower Studies on Operation Desert Storm in Iraq found that the four services tried to work together, but framework and doctrine sometimes constrained their effectiveness.

Fortunately for U.S. forces, that didn't matter much during that war, "largely due to a great deal of combat preparation time, abundant combat resources and a safe build-up/loosing area," according to the research paper.

Fast forward to 2014, and the U.S.



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

An F-18 jet takes off from the USS George Washington during the Valiant Shield exercise Wednesday in waters near Guam.

military is preparing for potential battles where they are attacked first, their resources are spread globally and their overseas bases are within striking distances of advanced, long-range missiles that are proliferating around the world.

Valiant Shield brings together 18,000 servicemembers, some of whom are operating systems unique to their services.

For example, the Air Force has a massive array of long-range bombers. The Navy has its seapower, which the Marine Corps can augment in ways that don't involve a single infantryman firing a rifle. Even the Army is getting into Valiant Shield for the first time since the maneuvers' inception in 2006. The air- and sea-oriented exercise incorporates the Army's Patriot missile batteries and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, which can target ballistic missiles.

The scenarios change daily at Valiant Shield, which began Monday and ends Sept. 23, but they all involve attacks from U.S. units posing as the enemy.

In some of the scenarios, the Marine Corps and the Air Force take the enemy role, and the "good guy" Navy commander must call on friendly Air Force units to fight.

At the general and ad-

ONLINE
For more photos and video from Valiant Shield 2014, go to stripes.com/go/valiant



miral level, this is part of what's known as "command and control." Giving those leaders an idea of what other services can do to win a fight — and how to use them most effectively — is the biggest thing the military's leadership gets from the exercise, said Rear Adm. Mark Montgomery, who heads the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group.

SEE LESSON ON PAGE 13

Going below deck on the USS George Washington

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON — Whenever an aircraft carrier takes visitors for a tour during an exercise like Valiant Shield, the flight deck is the main attraction, and the F-18 fighter pilots are the stars.

The cameras are trained on the excitement of arresting-wire landings, or the afterburners firing on takeoff. Off camera, there are a lot more sailors working long, loud hours to support flight operations on the deck and in the hangar below.

For all the talk of an increased operational tempo at Valiant Shield, where 18,000 servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are fighting together, sailors say their underway tempo in the Asia-Pacific region is already very high, almost all the time.

SEE BELOW ON PAGE 13

PACIFIC

Lesson: Joint concept about combining the force strengths

FROM PAGE 12

The joint concept isn't just about doubling the number of fighter jets available to a commander. It's melding different strengths together so that, as Montgomery put it, "two plus two can end up equaling six."

For example, Marine units on Guam and Tinian have set up radar stations that extend the George Washington's radar capabilities well beyond the horizon, said Col. Christopher Papaj, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing assistant commander assigned to the carrier during the exercise.

Meanwhile, the Air Force can stopgap a potential Navy limitation.

China is developing an anti-access, area-denial strategy that seeks to keep ships out of large swathes of Asia-Pacific waters with ballistic and cruise missiles, according to this year's Pentagon report to Congress.

If it keeps carriers at a distance, Navy fighters — and particularly the future F-35 — may not have the range they need.

That potentially complicates the U.S. guarantee to defend Taiwan, which China claims as its own. China also has disputed claims to territories in the East China Sea and South China Sea.

However, the Air Force and, to a lesser extent, the Marines can give Navy fighters added range through mid-air refueling, given sufficient cover.

"The Air Force has a lot of big wing fuel tankers, and we can move our airport wherever we want," said Capt. William Koyama, commander of Carrier Air Wing Five. "When we put those two together, we can sustain anything in the air."



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Above: Lt. Cmdr. Ivan Borga displays the "Ouija board" that keeps track of all aircraft aboard the USS George Washington on Wednesday in waters near Guam. **Below left:** An E2-C Hawkeye lands aboard the aircraft carrier. **Below right:** An arresting wire takes an F-18 flying at roughly 150 mph and stops it in about two seconds during flight operations.



Below: Most personnel on aircraft carrier not exclusively tied to fighter jets

FROM PAGE 12

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Haynes' job is to move aircraft around on the cavernous but tightly packed hangar deck.

It might seem mundane, but one misdeed in the wrong direction can cost millions of dollars in airplane parts, something that Haynes, of Waterboro, S.C., thinks about "all the time."

For him, Valiant Shield means sending more aircraft than usual up the carrier's open-decked elevators.

"Otherwise, it's always fast-paced on the GW," Haynes said.

Just as the majority of an air squadron's personnel don't actually fly, the majority of an aircraft carrier's sailors aren't exclusively tied to attack fighters. Besides those who run the ship, there are maintainers for air roles like electronic warfare, surveillance gathering and rescues, among other functions.

Last year, the USS George

'You've got jets with missiles loading up around you, the wind is going crazy and everybody is running.'

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Moore

Washington gained the HSM-77 Saberhawks, a helicopter strike squadron that can fight submarines.

Ask a group of helicopter maintainers what the exercise has been like for them, and they all agree that it's busy and unpredictable — in other words, not too different from normal days.

"We're so used to it, we don't think about it, really," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Nixon, of Smyrna, Tenn.

Keep asking, and after a while they smile and talk about that first time, when they each went up topside and arrived on a moving flight line in the middle of the ocean.

"You've got jets with missiles loading up around you, the wind is going crazy and everybody is running," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Moore, of Whidbey Island, Wash.

At any given time, there may be a dozen aircraft landing and taking off in quick succession, while sailors like Nixon and Moore are prepping their MH-60R Seahawk for a mission. Even though the ship is often likened to a floating city, it's only 1,092 feet long. Space is at a premium and everyone has to stay alert, according to the sailors.

"The big safety thing is to always keep your head on a swivel," Nixon said.

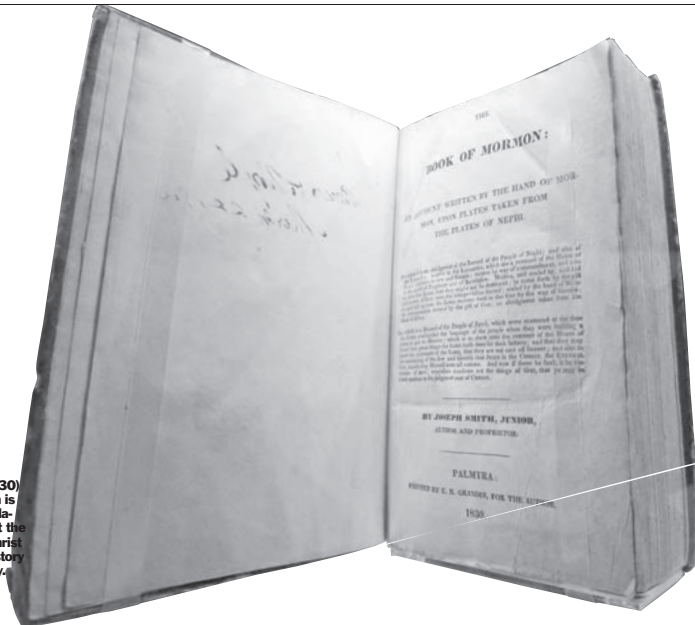
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ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

The USS George Washington's hangar deck is crowded with fighter jets and other aircraft during Valiant Shield on Wednesday.

FAITH



A first-edition copy (1830) of the Book of Mormon is displayed at the "Foundations of Faith" exhibit at the Salt Lake City Library.

PHOTOS BY RICK BOWEN/AP

Public gets 1st look at rare Mormon artifacts

By BRADY McCOMBS
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — In one glass case sits a weathered page from the original Book of Mormon manuscript that Latter-day Saints believe was translated from ancient Egyptian and dictated to scribes by founder Joseph Smith 185 years ago with help from God.

In other nearby cases are Smith's first journal and the first printed editions of books that contain commandments, doctrine and covenants based on early revelations Smith received while forming The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in upstate New York in 1830.

They are part of a new public exhibit that features some of the faith's most treasured artifacts dating back to the early days of Mormonism. The priceless collection of 26 books, manuscripts and documents was unveiled earlier this month at a news conference with church leaders that marks the latest example of the faith being more forthcoming about its history and tenets.

"These four display cases comprise our most precious documents," said Steven E. Snow, church historian and recorder. "They go to the foundation of our faith. These are our spiritual roots."

The religion founded with 30 followers now counts 15 million worldwide after experiencing a tripling of membership in the past three decades. As Mor-



A page from a Latter-day Saints book of scripture the Pearl of Great Price, first edition (1851), can be seen at the "Foundations of Faith" exhibit.

mons became more prominent in America and questions emerged about the burgeoning faith, some criticized it as being secretive about its beliefs and practices.

In recent years, the Salt Lake City-based church has taken concerted steps to change that image.

A year ago, it began releasing books containing historical documents that shed light on how Smith formed the church. The religion also has issued a series of in-depth articles that explain or clarify some of the more sensitive parts of its history that it once sidestepped, such as the faith's past ban on black men in the lay clergy and its early history of

polygamy.

The church's website has become a treasure trove of information about its doctrine, gospel and practices.

The new "Foundations of Faith" exhibit at the church's Salt Lake City history library is another illustration of the religion's push to open its vault and take on questions, said Terry Givens, professor of literature and religion and the James Bostwick chair of English at the University of Richmond.

The collection should generate widespread interest among Mormons who will be able to see, in person, the artifacts associated with keystone events in church

history, Givens said.

The items have been in the church vault, taken out from time to time to show, but they have never before been displayed in one collection. Church leaders hope the exhibit will bolster members' faith and help non-Mormons better understand the religion.

"We need to be open and transparent," Snow said. "There are questions that arise occasionally, and we need to deal with them in an honest, forthright way, which we are trying to do."

The document likely to draw the most interest is the page from the Book of Mormon, considered the religion's most valuable manuscript, said Richard E. Turley,

assistant church historian and recorder.

Before he was killed by a mob in 1844, Smith buried the entire manuscript in the cornerstone of a building under construction in Nauvoo, Ill., the city Mormons fled to in the mid-1800s to avoid religious persecution. The water-damaged manuscript was found in the rubble of the unfinished hotel some 40 years later. The church has only about one-fourth of the manuscript in its archive today, Turley said.

The exhibit also includes a collection of sacred hymns chosen by Smith's wife, Emma, in 1835; documents that show the early foundation of the faith's organization for women and girls; and the first translations of the Book of Mormon into non-English languages such as Danish and Spanish.

Church officials declined to give a monetary value for the collection, saying only that many items are priceless and irreplaceable. They have implemented new security measures in the library to protect them.

Philip Barlow, professor of Mormon history and culture at Utah State University, equated the experience of seeing the documents to Americans viewing the U.S. Constitution for the first time.

"There's something really important about the tangibility for the public of these documents in their original form," Barlow said. "It's a link with the past that has a sort of visceral power to change consciousness."

NATION



DARIAN DOVARGANES/AP

U.S. Customs and Border Protection public affairs liaison chief Lee Ann Hartley shows the interior of a 1967 Jaguar XK-E convertible that was stolen 46 years ago to his original owner, car collector Ivan Schneider, via video conference Wednesday in Carson, Calif.

Classic Jaguar stolen 46 years ago recovered in LA

By ANGEL JENNINGS

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — When Ivan Schneider's Jaguar convertible was stolen from in front of his Manhattan apartment 46 years ago, the now-retired trial lawyer thought it was gone forever.

He reluctantly replaced the British sports car and went on to collect other classic vehicles. But Schneider never stopped talking about his first love, a 1967 Jaguar XK-E.

"I would tell stories about this great car that got stolen," he said Wednesday from his Miami home via video news conference. "I have had a lot of great cars since then, but none has been as pretty."

Last month, he received an unexpected call from Lou Koven, a special agent with the National In-

surance Crime Bureau. Customs agents had found Schneider's beloved two-seater — in a container on a cargo ship en route to the Netherlands.

"He was in a state of disbelief," Koven said. "He thought it was a scam."

The Jaguar and four other missing cars were discovered in late August by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, who were assigned to inspect cargo leaving the Port of Los Angeles.

Some were already at sea, destined for the Philippines, Sweden or the Netherlands, by the time a computer search of vehicle identification numbers showed they had been stolen.

They included a 1969 Corvette taken during a burglary in Portland 26 years ago, a 1976

Mercedes 280 fraudulently obtained through a real estate scam in 2002, a 2007 Mercedes E350 fraudulently leased in Glendale, Calif., in 2008 and a 2014 Camaro ZL1 with illegal paperwork.

The cars were displayed Wednesday inside a warehouse in Carson, south of downtown Los Angeles.

The Jag brought back fond memories for the Schneider, 82, who had it for just six months before it disappeared.

He described waking up before dawn on weekends, pulling back the top and taking it on 100-mph spins on the open highway.

"That particular car was ahead of its time. You had to do something to keep the carbon out of the motor," he said, explaining his high-speed excursions.

Couple in Craigslist slaying get life terms

By PETER JACKSON

The Associated Press

SUNBURY, Pa. — A newlywed couple who lured a stranger to his death through a Craigslist ad were sentenced to life without parole by a judge who said they must be permanently removed from society.

Neither Miranda Barbour, 19, nor her husband, Elytte, 22, displayed any emotion Thursday in Northumberland County Court in Sunbury, Pa., as the victims' relatives expressed anger and pain over the slaying. However, Elytte Barbour apologized, but said he could not explain his actions.

They pleaded guilty last month to second-degree murder, which

carries a mandatory life sentence, in a plea deal that ruled out the death penalty.

Troy LaFerrara was answering an ad offering companionship

when he was attacked in Miranda Barbour's vehicle Nov. 11. Police say she stabbed him 20 times while her husband held a cord around his neck.

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Mourners in 'disbelief' at Pa. trooper's death

The Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. — A priest says that mourners have gathered "in sorrow, disbelief and anger" at the funeral for a Pennsylvania state trooper killed in an ambush.

But the Rev. Thomas Muldowney said people should focus on the positive impact that Cpl. Bryon Dickson, 38, made during his life.

Family members and hundreds of law enforcement officers attended Thursday's funeral Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

Earlier, troopers serving as pall bearers carried Dickson's flag-draped casket into the church as bagpipers played. Law enforcement officers from across the country lined the street and stood at attention.

Dickson was gunned down late Friday outside a rural barracks in

the Pocono Mountains.

Another trooper was wounded in the ambush that touched off a massive manhunt for Eric Frein, 31.

On Wednesday, authorities chased down several false sightings in their hunt for Frein, who had shaved his head in a wide Mohawk sometime before the shooting as "part of the mental preparation to commit this cowardly act," Lt. Col. George Bivens said Wednesday afternoon.

Frein belonged to a military simulation unit based in eastern Pennsylvania whose members play the role of soldiers from Cold War-era eastern Europe, Bivens told reporters.

Police named Frein the suspect after finding his abandoned SUV, which contained his driver's license and spent shell casings matching those at the crime scene.

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NATION

Facebook is such a drag

Performers blast site over policy requiring usage of real name

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AND PAUL ELIAS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco drag queens are sparring with Facebook over its policy requiring people to use their real names, rather than drag names such as Pollo Del Mar and Heklina. But the world's biggest social network is not budging from its rules.

In recent weeks, Facebook has been deleting the profiles of self-described drag queens and other performers who use stage names because they did not comply with the social networking site's requirement that users go by their "real names" on the site.

On Wednesday, Facebook declined to change its policy after meeting with drag queens and a member of the San Francisco board of supervisors. The company said it usually deletes accounts with fake names after investigating user complaints.

"This policy is wrong and misguided," said Supervisor David Campos, who was flanked by several drag queens during a news conference at San Francisco City



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Drag queens, from left, Lil Ms. Hot Mess, Sister Roma and Heklina speak about their battle with Facebook on Wednesday at City Hall in San Francisco. Facebook has been deleting the profiles of performers who use stage names because the site requires users to go by their "real names."

Hall.

The drag queens and others in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community say many Facebook account holders fear using their real names for a variety of reasons, including threats to their safety and employment.

"I have crazy family members who I don't want contacting me through Facebook," said a self-described drag queen who calls herself Heklina.

Facebook said it temporarily restored hundreds of deleted accounts for two weeks. After that they'll have to either change their name to their real name, or convert their profile to a fan page.

Campos and the drag queens, led by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence — a San Francisco group of drag performers and activists that's been around since 1979 — say they plan another meeting with Facebook and are hopeful that the company will ul-

timately alter its policy.

If Facebook doesn't change its policy, the drag queens at San Francisco City Hall on Wednesday said they would organize protests and boycotts.

Facebook says its policy "helps prevent bad behavior, while creating a safer and more accountable environment."

Facebook estimates that 6 to 11 percent of its monthly user accounts were duplicate or fake in 2013.

Wandering pooch found 3,000 miles from home

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Jack Russell terrier that went missing from its Pennsylvania home has turned up at an animal shelter nearly 3,000 miles away.

A good Samaritan this month spotted 7-year-old Gidget wandering in a Portland suburb and brought her to the Bonnie L. Hays Animal Shelter, said Deborah Wood, manager of Washington County Animal Services.

Wood said Wednesday that a microchip revealed that Gidget's owner lived near Philadelphia. Contacted by the shelter, the owner said her dog has been missing since April 22. It's a mystery how the dog arrived in Oregon.

Wood said Gidget was a little thin, but otherwise in good shape. She has regained some of the estimated five pounds she lost during her 4½ months away from home.

The shelter and the owner are trying to figure out how to get the dog back to Pennsylvania. The owner doesn't have the money to fly out, Wood said, and the shelter doesn't provide transportation. Wood said perhaps someone traveling from Portland to Philadelphia would be willing to take the dog with them.

"I kind of see this as a Disney story," Wood said. "And we are very committed to the happy ending that we'll figure out."



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WORLD

Australian raids net 15 in beheading plot

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Police on Thursday said they thwarted a plot to carry out beheadings in Australia by supporters of the radical Islamic State group. They detained 15 people and raided more than a dozen properties across Sydney, though nine of those brought in were freed before the day was over.

The raids involving 800 federal and state police officers — the largest in the country's history — came in response to intelligence that an Islamic State leader in the Middle East was calling on Australian supporters to kill, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

Abbott was asked about reports that the detainees were planning to behead a ran-

dom person in Sydney.

"That's the intelligence we received," he told reporters. "The exhortations — quite direct exhortations — were coming from an Australian who is apparently quite senior in ISIL (the Islamic State) to networks of support back in Australia to conduct demonstration killings here in this country."

"This is not just suspicion, this is intent and that's why the police and security agencies decided to act in the way they have," Abbott said.

Nine of those detained were later released, New South Wales police said. They did not say why, or whether they will face charges later.

The raids came just days after the country raised its terrorism threat to the second-

highest level in response to the domestic threat posed by supporters of the Islamic State group. At the time, Abbott stressed that there was no information suggesting a terrorist attack was imminent.

Later Thursday, Attorney General George Brandis confirmed that a person born in Afghanistan who had spent time in Australia and is now working with the Islamic State group in the Middle East ordered supporters in Australia to behead people and videotape the killings.

"If the... police had not acted today, there is a likelihood that this would have happened," Brandis told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Abbott and Brandis did not name the Australian. But Mohammad Ali Baryalei,

who is believed to be Australia's most senior member of the Islamic State group, was named as a co-conspirator in court documents filed Thursday. Police have issued an arrest warrant for Baryalei, 33, a former Sydney nightclub bouncer.

One of those detained, Omarjan Azari, 22, of Sydney, appeared briefly in a Sydney court on Thursday. Azari is charged with conspiracy to prepare for a terrorist attack.

A second man was charged Thursday night in connection with the raids. The 24-year-old, whom police didn't name, was charged with possessing ammunition without a license and unauthorized possession of a prohibited weapon. He was released on bail and ordered to appear in court next week.

Polling close as Scots begin vote on independence

The Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Scots held the fate of the United Kingdom in their hands Thursday as they voted in a referendum on becoming an independent state, deciding whether to unravel a marriage with England that built an empire but has increasingly been felt by many Scots as stifling and one-sided.

The question on the ballot paper is simplicity itself: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" Yet it has divided Scots

during months of campaigning, and polls suggest the result is too close to call.

A final Ipsos MORI poll released Thursday put support for the No side at 53 percent and Yes at 47 percent. The phone survey of 991 people has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The future of the 307-year-old union with England will be decided in 15 hours on Thursday; polls close at 10 p.m. GMT. Turnout is expected to be high, with more than 4.2 million people registered to vote.

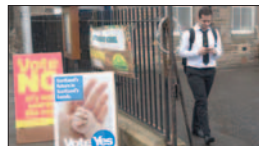
The campaign has generated an unprece-

dented volume and intensity of public debate and participation. The Yes side, in particular, has emerged young people and previously disillusioned working-class voters.

For some voters, this was a day they had dreamed of for decades.

"Fifty years I fought for this," said Isabelle Smith, 83, a Yes supporter in Edinburgh's maritime district of Newhaven, a former fishing port. "And we are going to win. I can feel it in my bones."

The vote result is anticipated Friday morning.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

A school pupil walks away from a polling place after casting his vote, as anyone over 16 can vote in the Scottish independence referendum, in Edinburgh, Scotland, on Thursday.

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PACIFIC

Americans find trouble in N. Korea

Reasons differ, but over years several entered despite risks

By FOSTER KLUG
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — One shouted about God's love as he crossed a frozen river, clutching a Bible. Another swam, drunk and naked. Several U.S. soldiers dashed around land mines.

Time and again, Americans over the years have slipped illegally into poor, deeply suspicious, fervently anti-American North Korea, even as it has become increasingly easy to enter legally as a tourist. It's incomprehensible to many, especially since tens of thousands of desperate North Koreans have crossed in the opposite direction, at great risk.

On Tuesday, a U.S. citizen apparently tried to swim across a river separating the Koreans, eager to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, local media reported. On Sunday, a young American who entered as a tourist but then turned up his visa was sentenced to six years of hard labor on charges he illegally entered the country to commit espionage.

Sneaking into autocratic, cloistered North Korea has proven a strange and powerful temptation for some Americans. Sometimes the spur is deep religious conviction. Sometimes it's discontent with America and a belief that things will be different in a country that can seem like its polar opposite. Quite often, analysts say, it's mental or personal problems — or simply a person acting upon a very, very bad idea.

Whatever their reasons, Americans detained in North Korea, including three currently in custody, are major complications for Washington, which must decide whether to let a U.S. citizen languish or to provide Pyongyang with a propaganda victory by sending a senior U.S. envoy to negotiate a release.

In the Cold War, a handful of U.S. soldiers, some of whom knew little about life in the North, fled across the Demilitarized Zone and later appeared in North Korean propaganda films.

Charles Robert Jenkins, of North Carolina, deserted his army post in South Korea in 1965. He was allowed to leave North Korea for Japan in 2004.

Other defector soldiers had problems in their military units or issues with family at home. One was reportedly lured north by a female North Korean agent.

Months later, he was married to some Americans harbored "glamorous notions of North Korea as a socialist paradise," said John Delury, an Asia expert at Yonsei University in Seoul. "But that's just not part of the mix anymore."

Mental health issues have often played a part, Delury said.



Clockwise from top: Matthew Miller, a U.S. citizen, was sentenced to six years of hard labor this month in North Korea. Officials in the country said he tried to commit espionage. Former U.S. Army deserter Charles Robert Jenkins spent nearly 40 years in North Korea after fleeing his unit. Former President Jimmy Carter, center left, helped free American Aijalon Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for crossing illegally into North Korea from China.

AP photos

"It's seen as a forbidden country ... a place that's perceived in the American mind as being locked down," Delury said. "To cross the border, in some ways, could be alluring" to people looking to break social rules.

Evan C. Hunziker had reportedly been drinking with a friend in 1996 when he decided to swim naked across the Yalu River between China and the North. Hunziker, who was released after about three months, had drug, alcohol and legal problems. He was later found dead in Washington state in what was ruled a suicide.

Religion has provided a powerful impulse for some to cross.

North Korea officially guarantees freedom of religion, but outside analysts and defectors describe the country as militantly anti-religious. The distribution of Bibles and secret prayer services can mean imprisonment or execution, defectors have said.

"It is one of the last frontiers to spread the Christian faith, so there are people who would take

unimaginable risks" to evangelize there, Delury said.

A Bible in his hand, American missionary Robert Park walked into North Korea on Christmas Day 2009 to draw attention to human rights abuses and to call for the resignation of then-leader Kim Jong Il. Park, who was deported from the country in February 2010, has said he was tortured by interrogators.

In 2010, former President Jimmy Carter visited North Korea to win the release of imprisoned American Aijalon Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for crossing illegally into the North from China. It was unclear what led Gomes, who had been teaching English in South Korea, to cross. But he may have been emulating Park, said Jo Sung-rae, a South Korean human rights advocate who met with Gomes. Gomes attended rallies in Seoul calling for Park's release before he was arrested.

Park later said he didn't want others to repeat his actions. "I

don't want others to do this. I just hoped that this could galvanize people to action. Because this is a society that needs change now," he told The Washington Post in February 2011.

For North Korea, getting a senior U.S. official or an ex-president to visit is a huge propaganda coup. It allows Pyongyang to plaster its newspapers and TV screens with scenes meant to show its powerful leaders welcoming humbled American dignitaries, said Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in South Korea.

Washington has repeatedly offered to send its envoy for North Korean human rights to discuss the currently detained Americans, but Pyongyang has balked.

"The North Koreans are in no hurry," Lankov said. "It's a sellers' market. They say, 'This is our price: a senior visit and some concessions. These are our goods, these Americans. If you don't want to pay, that's your problem. We can wait.'"



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Couple sues police over their arrest for filming

ME PORTLAND — The American Civil Liberties Union of Maine has filed a lawsuit on behalf of a couple who were arrested after trying to film police officers in Portland.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in Hancock County Superior Court against Benjamin Noyes, of the Portland Police Department, says the couple's arrest was illegal and unconstitutional.

The group says that Jill Walker and Sabatino Scattoloni tried to film an interaction between five police officers and a woman in May when they were told to leave or they would be arrested. The ACLU says the two were arrested after they asked the officer for the reason.

Man gets 10 years for explosives death

CA EL CAJON — A 41-year-old man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for setting off a homemade cannon-like device that killed his longtime girlfriend in San Diego County.

U-T San Diego reported that Richard Dale Fox received the sentence Monday in an emotional hearing where he apologized to the victim's family, asked forgiveness and said he lost the person that he loved most.

Prosecutors said Fox was drinking with friends in 2012 when he set off the device that sent fragments into his trailer and killed Jeanette Ogara, who was his girlfriend and the mother of his 4-year-old daughter.

Man admits to bomb threat to avoid work

TX CORPUS CHRISTI — Federal prosecutors say a San Antonio man who did not want to go to work called a South Texas airport threatening that two bombs would be detonated.

Authorities said in a statement Monday that Steve M. Gutierrez III, 40, pleaded guilty to threatening to damage or destroy a structure using explosives.

Gutierrez in July was working at the construction site for a new U.S. Coast Guard facility at Corpus Christi International Airport. Prosecutors contend he called the general contractor saying officials should expect "two bombs to go off." The site was evacuated.

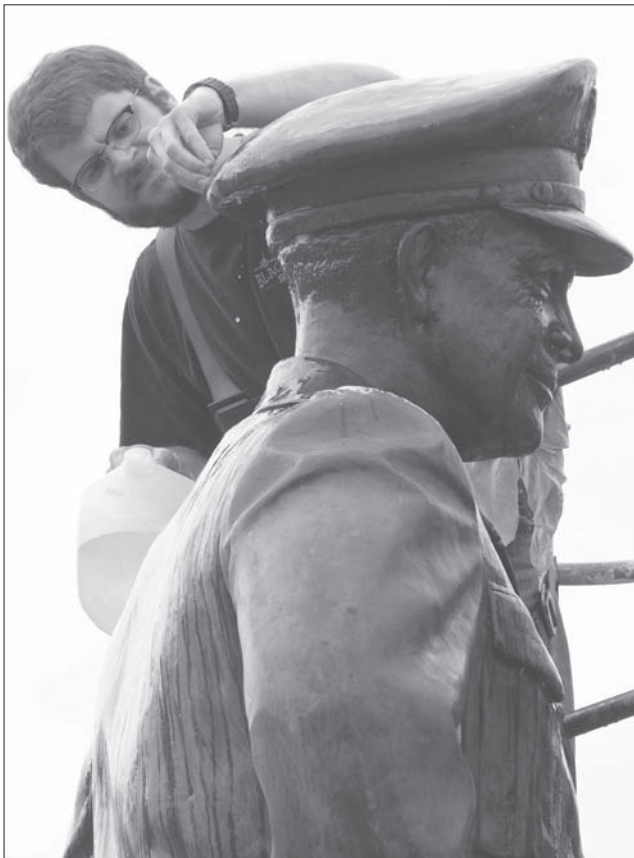
\$13K restitution ordered in defacement case

UT PARK CITY — A California man pleaded guilty to defacing two Utah murals believed to have been done by the mysterious British graffiti artist Banksy.

Dave Williamson, 36, will pay \$13,000 in restoration costs as part of a plea agreement.

Noll told a judge Monday he was suffering from a bout with bipolar disorder when he drove to Park City and damaged the works on New Year's Eve. The county prosecutor said Noll appears to be a frustrated artist.

The murals appeared in



TOM DORSEY, SALINA (KAN.) JOURNAL/AP

Bath time for Ike

Matthew Thompson cleans a bronze statue of Dwight Eisenhower at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kan., earlier this week. The statue is cleaned every few years as needed.

2010, when a documentary by Banksy debuted at the Sundance Film Festival.

Man taking a swim delays ferry docking

WA SEATTLE — Seattle police said a man taking a dip off the Seattle waterfront delayed the arrival of a ferry.

The Seattle Times reported that the man jumped off Colman Dock and swam out to one of the ferry piers, preventing a ferry from docking on time. The man was arrested on investigation of second-degree malicious mischief.

Man leaps to death, takes dog with him

NJ FORT LEE — Authorities said a northern New Jersey man jumped to his death from a cliff overlooking the Hudson

River with his dog in his arms.

Palisades Interstate Parkway Police responded to a report of a car on fire on Henry Hudson Drive between Englewood Cliffs and Edgewater on Monday afternoon.

Police said they determined that the car's owner, Cross Yoler, 34, of Garfield, had jumped from the northern ledge of Fort Lee Historic Park with his Yorkshire terrier with him.

Cemetery to restore Abraham Lincoln's vault

IL SPRINGFIELD — A vault that temporarily held Abraham Lincoln's body is set to be restored for an upcoming event that will mark the anniversary of his 1865 funeral in Springfield.

Illinois bid documents show up

to \$300,000 in repairs and waterproofing are planned at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The remains of Lincoln and his son, Willie, were kept in the vault from May 4, 1865, until Dec. 21, 1865, before they were eventually moved to a permanent tomb. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which administers the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, said the vault restoration should be complete for the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's funeral in May 2015.

Book keeps train's legend on track

TN JOHNSON CITY — After a pictorial book about one of the region's most storied locomotives laid the track, two authors are hoping their latest paperback will help the engine's legend pick up steam.

With "The Clinchfield No. 1:

THE CENSUS

90 The age of a Florida woman who celebrated her landmark birthday by flying a four-seat Cessna. Billy Jones had to sit on a pillow to see out the windshield Tuesday, but she took off with flight instructor Kurt Schneider by her side and landed some 30 minutes later at Flagler County Airport. The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported the flight wasn't out of the ordinary for the 5-foot-tall Jones. For her 80th birthday, she went skydiving. When she turned 85, she flew a glider. Jones has been taking flying lessons with Schneider for months "just for the fun of flying."



Tennessee's Legendary Steam Engine" released Aug. 19, authors Mark Stevens and Alf Peoples hope to shed light on some of the history, people and stories around the celebrated locomotive.

The book is a follow-up to Stevens' and Peoples' pictorial book, "The One & Only: A Pictorial History of the Clinchfield No. 1," which was published in November and contained around 500 photos.

Officials: Petroglyph trails trashed by joyride

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities say pathways at the Petroglyph National Monument have been damaged after someone took a joyride in hot-wired farm equipment.

KOAT-TV reported that someone over the weekend rode a Bobcat up the trails, trashing equipment and pathways.

The damage came as officials worked to rebuild trails a year after damaging rains.

Diane Souder, of the National Park Service, said the trails are a sacred area to the Pueblo people.

Store featured in film to host distributor

PA INTERCOURSE — A central Pennsylvania building that until recently housed a century-old grocery store featured in the Harrison Ford movie "Witness" will become the new home of a wholesale distributor of hardware and dry goods.

Lancaster Newspapers reported that Lestz & Co. plans to move into the former W.L. Zimmerman & Sons grocery store in Intercourse in Lancaster County. The store, which had operated since 1909, closed in late March.

Lestz & Co. operator Fred Cook said many of the firm's customers are Amish stores. He said the Lancaster operation will close Monday and Lestz & Sons' inventory will be moved to the vacant Intercourse store.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fed keeps rates low, but brace for rise

BY PAUL WISEMAN
AND MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Record-low interest rates will be around for at least a few more months, the Federal Reserve made clear Wednesday.

Enjoy the easy money while it

By mid-2015, economists expect the Fed to abandon a nearly 6-year-old policy of keeping short-term rates at record lows. Those

rates have helped support the economy, have cheered the stock market and have shrunk mortgage rates. A Fed rate increase potentially could reverse those trends.

Mortgages could cost more. So could car loans. Investors could get squeezed.

"Borrowers should see the writing on the wall," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "Interest rates are eventually going to go up. They should pay down variable-rate debt and keep an eye on that adjustable-

rate mortgage. They don't want to be caught flat-footed."

Investors, in particular, might recall that mere speculation about the end of the Fed's stimulus shook global financial markets in May 2013. In coming months, as the prospect of higher rates nears, traders might once again dump stocks and bonds and send prices tumbling.

Higher yields on bank accounts and CDs could provide some modest relief for savers and retirees who have struggled for years to

get by on meager interest income. But any gains they receive could

But any gains they receive could be diminished by the likelihood that inflation will be higher once the economy is strong enough for the Fed to end its ultra-low rate policy.

The central bank said it intends to keep its benchmark rate near zero as long as inflation remains under control, until it sees consistent gains in wage growth, long-term unemployment and other gauges of the job market.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.686	\$4.077	\$4.037	\$4.134
Change in price	-4.9 cents	-4.7 cents	-4.7 cents	-1.3 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.727	\$5.008	\$4.853
Change in price	--	no change	+0.1 cents	+0.1 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.858	\$4.080	\$4.074
Change in price	--	-4.7 cents	+0.2 cents	-1.3 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.003	--
Change in price	--	--	-4.7 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.838	\$4.026	\$4.240
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.212	\$4.808*
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Italy	\$4.088	--	--	\$4.164
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.83	--	\$3.88
Change in price	--	+\$0.05 cents	--	+\$0.05 cents
Okinawa	\$3.50	--	--	\$3.88
Change in price	-0.05 cents	--	--	+\$0.05 cents
South Korea	\$3.53	--	\$3.87	\$3.92
Change in price	-0.05 cents	--	-0.05 cents	-0.05 cents
Guam	\$3.51**	\$3.69	\$3.86	--
Change in price	-0.05 cents	-0.05 cents	-0.05 cents	--

*** Diesel EFD ** Midgrade**
For the week of Sept. 20-26

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 17, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	+24.88 17,156.85
Nasdaq composite	+9.43 4,562.19
Standard & Poor's 500	+2.59 2,001.57
Russell 2000	+2.92 1,153.89

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 19).....	\$1.3221
Dollar buys (Sept. 19).....	€0.7564
British pound (Sept. 19).....	\$1.68
Japanese yen (Sept. 19).....	105.00
South Korean won (Sept. 19).....	1,014.00

Commercial rates

British pound	\$1,6385/0.1062
Canada (Dollar)	1.0913
China (Yuan)	1.6432
Denmark (Krone)	5.7769
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1,2887/0.7760
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7511
Hungary (Forint)	242.23
Israel (Shekel)	3.6453
Japan (Yen)	108.78
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2870
Norway (Krone)	6.3516
Philippines (Peso)	44.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.26
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Switzerland (Dollar)	1.2685
South Korea (Won)	1,046.10
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9371
Thailand (Baht)	32.29
US Dollar	1.0000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK

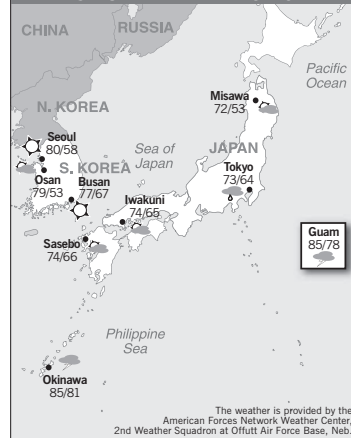
FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

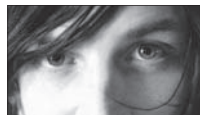
Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	60	Cl	Fort Wayne	71	49	Cl	Louisville	79	53	Cl	Pocatello	75	53	PCldy	Sioux City	86	63	Cl	
Alexand, Tex.	84	71	Cl	Cheyenne	82	54	Cl	Fresno	86	66	PCldy	Rockford	76	66	Rain	Portland, Maine	57	39	Cl	Sioux Falls	83	62	Cl
Akron, Ohio	72	47	Cl	Chicago	73	51	Cl	Grand Rapids	85	60	Cl	Macon	86	63	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	76	59	Cl	South Bend	70	50	Cl
Albany, N.Y.	81	59	Cl	Cincinnati	73	50	Cl	Grand Junction	83	60	Cl	Madison	87	69	PCldy	Providence	74	49	PCldy	Spokane	75	50	PCldy
Albuquerque	79	62	Cl	Cleveland	71	48	Cl	Goodland	68	43	PCldy	Medford	86	56	Cl	Pueblo	86	56	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	75	50	Cl
Allentown, Pa.	70	47	PCldy	Colorado Springs	83	55	PCldy	Great Falls	77	53	Cl	Memphis	85	65	Cl	Raleigh-Durham	83	63	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	64	41	PCldy
Altamont, N.J.	80	56	Cl	Colo. Springs	82	55	PCldy	Green Bay	73	49	Cl	Midland-Odessa	83	69	Cl	Reno	81	53	Cl	St. Louis	74	50	Cl
Anchorage	76	47	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	87	66	PCldy	Greensboro, N.C.	73	49	Cl	Midland-Odessa	83	69	Cl	Reynolds	83	63	PCldy	Tallahassee	80	68	Cl
Annapolis, Md.	75	50	Cl	Columbus, Ohio	82	55	PCldy	Hartford	72	48	Cl	Minneapolis	79	52	Cl	Rochester, N.Y.	70	52	Cl	Tampa	75	50	Cl
Anniston, Ala.	75	50	Cl	Concord, N.H.	59	35	Cl	Hartford	67	42	Cl	Mpls-St Paul	77	57	Cl	Roanoke	70	59	Rain	Toledo	72	44	Cl
Atlanta	81	63	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	59	35	Cl	Helena	79	51	Cl	Missoula	76	49	PCldy	Rochester	64	40	PCldy	Topeka	88	64	PCldy
Atlantic City	72	53	PCldy	Corpus Christi	92	77	Rain	Corpus Christi	92	77	Rain	Missoula	76	49	PCldy	Rochester	64	40	PCldy	Tulsa	88	68	PCldy
Baltimore	73	54	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	77	51	Cl	Houston	89	73	Rain	Montgomery	89	67	PCldy	Sacramento	87	63	Cl	Tulsa	88	68	PCldy
Baton Rouge, La.	75	54	PCldy	Dayton	74	51	Cl	Houston	89	73	Rain	Montgomery	89	67	PCldy	Sacramento	87	63	Cl	Tulsa	88	68	PCldy
Birmingham	80	58	Cl	Denver	86	58	PCldy	Indianapolis	73	51	Cl	New Orleans	82	72	PCldy	St. Petersburg	86	77	Rain	Waco	88	71	Cl
Birmingham	84	64	PCldy	Des Moines	81	56	Cl	Jackson, Miss.	91	64	Rain	New York City	87	64	PCldy	St. Thomas	89	78	Rain	Washington	73	56	PCldy
Bismarck	80	63	PCldy	Des Moines	81	56	Cl	Jackson, Miss.	91	64	Rain	New York City	87	64	PCldy	St. Thomas	89	78	Rain	Washington	73	56	PCldy
Boston	83	67	Cl	Duluth	64	49	Rain	Juneau	55	48	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	78	64	Cl	Salt Lake City	80	63	Cl	Wichita	88	68	PCldy
Boston	58	49	Cl	El Paso	86	67	Cl	Kansas City	82	62	PCldy	North Platte	82	67	Cl	San Angelo	88	71	Cl	Wichita Falls	89	70	Cl
Bridgeton, N.J.	77	52	PCldy	El Paso	86	67	Cl	Key West	82	62	PCldy	North Platte	82	67	Cl	San Antonio	88	71	Cl	Wichita Falls	89	70	Cl
Brownsville	91	77	Cl	Erie	68	46	Cl	Knoxville	82	57	PCldy	Omaha	85	64	PCldy	San Diego	77	71	Rain	Wilmington, Del.	73	54	PCldy
Buena Vista, Va.	81	64	PCldy	Evansville	77	54	Cl	Knoxville	82	57	PCldy	Omaha	85	64	PCldy	San Diego	77	71	Rain	Wilmington, Del.	73	54	PCldy
Burlington, Vt.	61	34	Cl	Evansville	77	54	Cl	Lansing	68	41	PCldy	Paduach	80	54	Cl	San Francisco	78	68	PCldy	Youngstown	70	44	Cl
Burlington, Maine	64	39	Cl	Fairbanks	60	43	PCldy	Las Vegas	92	74	PCldy	Pendleton	80	58	Cl	San Jose	77	58	Cl				
Butte, Mont.	75	51	Cl	Fairfax	63	46	Cl	Fairfax	63	46	Cl	Pendleton	80	58	Cl	San Jose	77	58	Cl				
Charleston, S.C.	81	67	Cl	Flagstaff	71	50	Cl	Lincoln	87	64	PCldy	Philadelphia	73	55	PCldy	Savannah	82	68	Cl				
Charleston, W.Va.	79	50	PCldy	Flint	66	36	Cl	Little Rock	86	66	PCldy	Phoenix	74	58	PCldy	Seattle	72	59	Cl				
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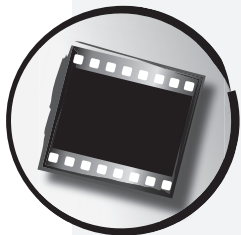
National temperature extremes

Hi: Wed., 103, Palm Springs, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 30, Boulder, Colo. and
Stanley, Idaho

WEEKEND



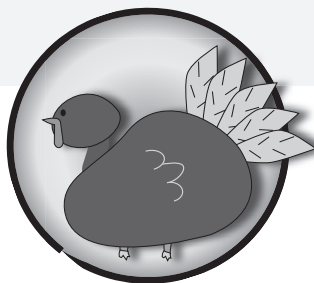
Ryan Adams
finds balance
Page 36



Fall's flicks

Big-screen features include
a cornucopia of seasonal treats

Page 24



Viewers beware

'No Good Deed' delivers visceral beating at the worst possible time

Movie review, Page 26

Glories of Greece

Classic tourist dilemma: So many islands, so little time

Travel, Page 30

Blast from past

Chinatown gives glimpse of Honolulu of ages past

Travel, Page 34

Hitting the target

'Destiny' strikes good balance of co-op play, mechanics

Video games, Page 37

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

For gamers, waiting is hardest part

BY DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

When it comes to video games, are they better late than never?

At this week's GameStop Expo, the video game retailer's annual consumer-centric event, more than 3,000 attendees had the chance to test drive highly anticipated titles like "Evolve," "Dying Light" and "Battlefield Hardline" in the halls of the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. However, it's probably the last time this year that gamers will have to play these particular titles.

That's because they're among the growing list of games initially set to be released in 2014 that have been delayed until 2015. The publishers behind the monster fighter "Evolve," zombie survival adventure "Dying Light" and cops-and-robbers romp "Battlefield Hardline" each postponed their release dates so developers had more time to tweak the titles.

It's a frustrating trend that's prompting many players to bemoan the least fun game of all: The Waiting Game.

"Oh, it sucks," said Dan Adams, an expo attendee who came to preview games like "Far Cry 4" and "Call of Duty" on the show floor. "I know games are delayed to make them better, but it definitely feels like it's happening more often these days. It really messes with your expectations when you think you know when a game is coming out, and then—boom—it's next year."

Other games previously set for release this year that have been pushed to 2015 include the online apocalyptic shooter "Tom Clancy's The Division," the Dark Knight sequel "Batman: Arkham Knight," the supernatural historical adventure "The Order: 1886," the sprawling role-playing sequel "The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" and the near-world movie adaptation "Mad Max."

Deciding to delay is as much a business decision as it is a creative one.

While setting a release date helps to build hype for a game, if



JAE C. HONG/AP

A monster character from the video game "Evolve" greets gamers at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, in Los Angeles in June. "Evolve" is among a growing list of games initially set for release in 2014 but delayed until 2015.

it comes out on time but doesn't meet gamers' expectations, there's less chance a publisher will greenlight a sequel. Historically, consumers are forgiving of most overdue games. For instance, the fourth-month delay of last year's "Grand Theft Auto V" hardly seemed to impact sales.

That's likely to be true for the latest batch of tardy titles, which also aren't expected to affect the sales of the newer PlayStation 4 and Xbox One consoles. In fact, pushing games like "Evolve" to Feb. 10 and "Batman: Arkham Knight" to June 5 might actually boost the bottom line for publishers like 2K Games and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment.

"I don't think any of the delayed games are system sellers, so I don't really think it makes a lot of difference," said Michael Pachter, an analyst at Wedbush Morgan. "The games coming out will benefit from lower competition, and the delays smooth out the release calendar, so they'll probably create an opportunity for greater success all around."

It also means newcomers like "Evolve," "The Order" and "Division" won't have to compete with the latest editions of long-running series, such as military shooter "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," fantasy epic "Dragon Age: Inquisition," shoot-'em-up "Far Cry 4" and French Revolution-set "Assassin's Creed: Unity." They're still on track to come out in 2014—well, for now.

GADGET WATCH



The iStabilizer Monopod and Shutter Remote Bundle help you include your subjects and more of the environment around you.

iSTABILIZER.COM/MCT

iStabilizer gives more reach for your selfie

BY GREGG ELLMAN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The iStabilizer Monopod and Shutter Remote Bundle are the perfect solution to make selfie photos much more appealing because they let you include your subjects and more of the environment around you.

The iStabilizer (one foot long when collapsed) attaches to a camera at one end and extends over three feet, giving your camera far more reach for that coveted selfie. It's compatible with most smart phones and other action cameras including iPhones, Androids, Blackberrys and GoPros.

But the key to the system is the handheld wireless Shutter Remote. The remote connects to your device with Bluetooth and fires with your camera app or "any other app that uses the volume button to trigger the shutter," according to the company.

I fired it up with an iPhone 5s without any problem. Since it relies on Bluetooth, the remote can be about 35 feet from the camera if you're using another device to keep it in place.

The remote also works with Apple computers (Macbook, iMac, Mac Mini) for snapping photos, music selections, volume and even to talk to Siri.

Online: iStabilizer.com; \$59.95 for the Bundle includes the remote and monopod.

The Moshi Digits might appear to be just gloves at first glance. They are that—and a lot more.

Winter isn't far off, so it's the right time to be looking for a product such as these dual-layered gloves. They're ideal for keeping your hands warm while giving you a touch-screen connection on your smartphone and tablets.

What makes them work is conductive fiber

built into all 10 fingertips, which enable your fingers to work on the screen.

There's also a soft micro-fleece lining to keep your hands warm, and the GripTrak pattern in the palm area keeps your device firmly in your grip, even in the cold.

moshi.com, \$29.95

The Syncable-Duo charge and sync cable by TYLT is an incredibly useful one-in-two item.

There's a Lightning connection plug, which plugs into the microUSB end to make it one cable. When you want the microUSB end, just use it as is. But when you want the Lightning end, pull off the microUSB tip to expose it. When the microUSB isn't being used, it remains attached to the cable so won't get lost.

tylt.com, \$24.99-\$29.99, depending on length

The new iLuv TimeShaker Micro is designed to give you a little nudge when your alarm goes off.

It has all the expected features of a night stand alarm clock including multiple alarm options, FM radio and Bluetooth for connecting other devices.

The main feature is the shaker, which goes under a pillow to give you a shake when your alarm goes off.

If you're anything like me, you could sleep through any audible alarm, but the shaker is another story. It also makes a great alarm for the hearing-impaired.

If you don't want your alarm to wake anyone else sleeping close by, the alarm can be set for shake only.

Inside the night stand-sized sound system is a pair of stereo speakers and a big, bright (adjustable with 10 levels) LCD display for the time.

There's also a line port for non-Bluetooth devices and a USB port to charge smartphones and tablets.

Online: iLuv.com, \$49.99

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Sept. 17:

- "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Gonna Know We," Jason Aldean
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Sun Daze," Florida Georgia Line
- "Here We Go," Alex & Sierra
- "Rude" featuring Jess Glynne, Clean Bandit
- "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
- "Habits (Stay High)," Tove Lo
- "Chandelier," Sia

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify for Sept. 8-15:

- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Black Widow," Iggy Azalea
- "Blame," Calvin Harris
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Anaconda," Nicki Minaj
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Maps," Maroon 5

— From The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Sept. 17:

- "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
- "Godzilla"
- "The Fault in Our Stars"
- "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
- "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
- "Fed Up"
- "Chef"
- "The Lunchbox"
- "Blended"
- "Draft Day"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 handheld games for September:

- "Shovel Knight," 3DS
- "Professor Layton vs. Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney," 3DS
- "Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair," Vita
- "Metroid," Vita
- "The Swapper," Vita
- "Velocity 2X," Vita
- "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
- "Mario Golf: World Tour," 3DS
- "Borderlands 2," Vita
- "Tomodachi Life," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Sept. 17:

ANDROID

- Five Nights at Freddy's
- DRAGON QUEST
- The Walking Dead Pinball
- WiFi Solver FTD
- Block Fortress

Top 5 paid apps for Sept. 17:

APPLE

- Five Nights at Freddy's
- Minecraft — Pocket Edition
- Goblin Sword
- Sleep Cycle alarm clock
- Afterlight

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Get ready for new and returning TV shows

It's definitely starting to feel like fall outside. As the sun sets earlier each night, use the darkness for its intended purpose — couch potato time! (You didn't think we were going to say sleep, did you?) Series and season premieres are exploding across AFN's schedule this week. Some premieres of note:

- **'Red Band Society,'** starring Octavia Spencer, series premiere Sept. 21 on AFN-Family;
- **'Madam Secretary,'** starring Tea Leoni, series premiere Sept. 22 on AFN-Prime;
- **'The Good Wife,'** Season 6, Sept. 22 on AFN-Prime;
- **'The Big Bang Theory,'** Season 8, Sept. 23 on AFN-Prime;
- **'The Voice,'** Season 7, Sept. 23 on AFN-Family;
- **'Sleepy Hollow,'** Season 2, Sept. 23 on AFN-Family;
- **'Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.,'** Season 2, Sept. 24 on AFN-Spectrum;
- **'Chicago Fire,'** Season 3, Sept. 24 on AFN-Spectrum;
- **'NCIS,'** Season 12, Sept. 24 on AFN-Prime;
- **'NCIS: New Orleans,'** starring Scott Bakula, series premiere Sept. 24 on AFN-Prime;
- **'Person of Interest,'** Season 4, Sept. 24 on AFN-Prime;
- **'Chicago PD,'** Season 2, Sept. 25 on AFN-Spectrum;
- **'Law & Order: SVU,'** Season 16, Sept. 25 on AFN-Spectrum;
- **'Survivor,'** Season 29, Sept. 25 on AFN-Prime;
- **'The Middle,'** Season 6, Sept. 25 on AFN-Family;
- **'The Goldbergs,'** Season 2, Sept. 25 on AFN-Family.

• **Interview with Scott Bakula of 'NCIS: New Orleans'** on Page 39.



"Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." stars Clark Gregg and Ming-Na Wen.



"Red Band Society"



"The Big Bang Theory" cast includes Johnny Galecki, Kunal Nayyar and Jim Parsons.

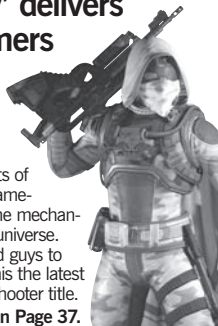


2

'Destiny' delivers for gamers

Fans of MMO video games, rejoice: "Destiny" awaits. This new release combines the frantic firefights of "Call of Duty's" game-play mode with the mechanics of the "Halo" universe. A world full of bad guys to conquer makes this the latest must-have sci-fi shooter title.

• **Game review on Page 37.**



3

Music of the movies

If you've ever watched a movie, enjoyed the music but been unsure of where to find it, we have a website for you. Soundtrack.net is a gold mine of information about movie and television soundtracks and original scores. You can search for information by the film's name, by the music composer or by the film's release date. You can even find obscure information, such as unused film scores that were later released or music used for the trailer.

• **Explore at soundtrack.net.**



4

Self-control saves day in 'Star S'mores'

Cookie Monster lives on Sesame Street, but that guy really gets around. After teaming with late-night host John Oliver to teach us grammar two weeks ago, the googly-eyed desert lover is starring as Flan Solo, who must overcome his desire for edible buddy Chewie for the good of the galaxy.

• **Watch the video at tinyurl.com/ouzwzyd4.**



WEEKEND: FALL MOVIE PREVIEW



Faces of Fall

'Gone Girl,' 'Unbroken' lead drumbeat of this season's films

By JAKE COYLE/The Associated Press

photos by The Associated Press, movie studios

From top left: Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo star in "Foxcatcher"; Ben Affleck stars in "Gone Girl"; Reese Witherspoon stars in "Wild"; Brad Pitt stars in "Fury"; David Oyelowo and Carmen Ejogo star in "Selma"; Matthew McConaughey stars in "Interstellar"; and Jennifer Lawrence stars in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1."

Unable to find her second directing project, Angelina Jolie took to sifting through "generals." Looking for a diamond in the rough, the actress-turned-director searched the movies that studios owned but weren't making.

"So I scanned through these generals and landed on 'Unbroken,' a story of resilience and strength and the human spirit, of faith and survival at sea," says Jolie. "It was about three sentences and I came home and I said to Brad, 'What about this one?' And he said, 'Oh, honey, that one's been around forever.' It had a reputation for being one that never gets done."

But "Unbroken" — the true tale of Louis Zamperini, a track star who was lost in the Pacific for 47 days after his plane was shot down during World War II — stuck with Jolie, even though it had been kicking around Hollywood for decades. "It was like a fever, an obsession," she says.

"So I fought for it and I fought for it and I fought for it," says Jolie. "It took me months of fighting to get the job."

Even for the world's most famous stars, determination is a necessary ingredient for the fall movie season. Few of the fall's films haven't had to claw their way to theaters. It's a season for the movies' most unconventional thinkers, the ones dedicated to making a tragic Olympic wrestler drama ("Foxcatcher") or finding humor in North Korea ("The Interview").

Led by "Unbroken" (Dec. 25 in the U.S.), this year's fall is a battlefield of war stories, including Jolie's (new) husband Brad Pitt on the Western Front in "Fury" (Oct. 17), a WWII drama about a tank of American soldiers. Clint Eastwood also returns for his second film this year with "American Sniper" (Dec. 25), starring Bradley Cooper as an elite Navy SEAL marksman.

American tales, both triumphant and warped, will be numerous. In the based-on-a-true-story "Foxcatcher" (Nov. 14) from Bennett Miller, an Olympic wrestler (Channing Tatum) is taken in by a rich but demented benefactor (Steve Carell). A year after David Oyelowo and Oprah Winfrey costarred in "The Butler," they reteam for "Selma" (Dec. 25), in which Oyelowo plays Martin Luther King. (Winfrey is a producer.)

In "The Interview" (also Dec. 25) from Seth Rogen and his directing partner Evan Goldberg, Rogen and James Franco play journalists asked by the CIA to assassinate Kim Jong-un. It's distinguished as the only autumn film a country (North Korea) has asked President Obama to block.

Many of the upcoming films — like Alejandro Inarritu's "Birdman, or the 'Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance'" with Michael Keaton (Oct. 17), and the Reese Witherspoon drama "Wild" (Dec. 5) — will drum up attention on the festival circuit and hope to be drafted into the awards season industrial complex, an increasingly all-consuming annual rite of hype-soaked frenzy. This year, one film will set the season's beat unlike any other: "Whiplash" (Oct. 23). In the Sundance hit, Miles Teller plays an obsessively focused jazz drummer at an elite New York conservatory under the strict tutelage of a drill-sergeant teacher (J.K. Simmons).

"Absolutely where I connected to Andrew was his drive and his ambition," says Teller, the 27-year-old actor whose 2013 breakout with "The Spectacular Now" will continue with "Whiplash." "You can look at this movie and say, 'It's destroying him.' It's killing him. He's giving away his humanity for his art.' But a lot of people go through life not caring about anything remotely as much as Andrew cares about drumming."

Whereas Teller is a fresh face to the gantlet of awards season, David Fincher is a seasoned veteran — one who has consistently avoided the season's trappings. He directs one of the fall's most anticipated movies, "Gone Girl" (Oct. 3), an adaptation of the best-selling Gillian Flynn novel.

Other heavyweight filmmakers, of course, will be debuting films this fall, including Paul Thomas Anderson's Thomas Pynchon adaptation, "Inherent Vice" (Dec. 12), starring Joaquin Phoenix. But no film is more eagerly awaited than Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" (Nov. 7), a philosophical science fiction thriller starring Matthew McConaughey. A year after his Oscar win for "Dallas Buyers Club," the McConaissance is going to space.

WEEKEND: FALL MOVIE PREVIEW

All dates are U.S. release dates unless otherwise noted.

SEPTEMBER

"Tusk": From writer and director Kevin Smith comes a story about podcaster Wallace Bryton (Justin Long), who goes missing after interviewing a seafarer (Michael Parks). His friends set out on a search to find him in the Canadian backwoods.

"Hector and the Search for Happiness": Hector (Simon Pegg), a quirky psychiatrist, tells his girlfriend, Clara (Rosamund Pike), that he is tired of the mundane life. He sets off on a global quest to search for true happiness.

"Pride" takes place during the summer of 1924 when a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists raise money to support National Union of Mineworkers on strike.

"The Boxtrolls": From the creators of "Coraline" comes a new stop-motion animation about a family of mischievous creatures who take in an orphan boy named Eggs.

"The Equalizer": Denzel Washington plays McCall, a man who finds a young girl (Chloe Grace Moretz) at the hands of violent Russian gangsters. He comes out of his self-imposed retirement to seek justice.

"The Notebook": During the height of World War II, a desperate mother takes her twin 13-year-old sons to live with her estranged mother. The inseparable twins communicate without words as a way to cope with the world around them.

OCTOBER

"Birdman": An actor famous for portraying a superhero struggles to mount a Broadway play in this black comedy starring Michael Keaton.

"Maps to the Stars": TV self-help therapist Stafford Weiss (John Cusack) and his family are thrown for a loop when another family member (Mia Wasikowska) arrives in town and becomes the personal assistant to an actress (Julianne Moore) troubled by the ghost of her legendary mother.

"Gone Girl": Based on the bestseller by Gillian Flynn, Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) reports that his wife (Rosamund Pike) has gone missing. Nick's strange behavior causes everyone around him, including the police and media, to question if he murdered his wife.

"Left Behind": An apocalyptic thriller about the biblical rapture when millions of people disappear without a trace. Starring Nicolas Cage.

"The Good Lie": Orphaned by the brutal civil war in Sudan, a group of Sudanese men known as "The Lost Boys" travel thousands of miles on foot in search of safety. Directed by Philippe Falardoux ("Monsieur Lazhar").

"The Two Faces of January": Set in Greece and Tunisia in 1962, a wealthy American couple (Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst) meet tour guide Rydell (Oscar Isaac). A murder at the couple's hotel puts all three on the run through the two countries.

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day": Disney re-imagines a childhood favorite in this comedy that follows the exploits of 11-year-old Alexander (Ed Oxenbuild) as he deals with a disastrous day. Also starring Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner.

"Dracula Untold" tells the origins of the man who became Dracula. Starring Luke Evans ("Fast & Furious 6").

"I Am All": An intimate look at the boxing legend through his personal archive of audio journals, as well as interviews from family and friends.

"The Judge": Hank Palmer (Robert Downey Jr.) returns to his hometown in an effort to figure out whether his estranged father (Robert Duvall) committed a murder.

"Book of Life": Young Manolo embarks on an adventure that spans three fantastical worlds in this animated comedy from producer Guillermo del Toro and director Jorge Gutierrez.

"Kill the Messenger": Jeremy Renner stars as the Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist Gary Webb, who uncovered a deadly cocaine conspiracy that took him from the prisons of California to the villages of Nicaragua.

"Liting": Cambodian-Chinese mother (Cheng



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC./AP

Emily Blunt, left, and James Corden star in "Into the Woods," due to hit U.S. theaters Dec. 25.



COLUMBIA PICTURES, SONY/AP

Quvenzhané Wallis plays the title role in the upcoming movie "Annie."



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Jim Carrey, left, and Jeff Daniels reunite in "Dumb and Dumber To." The comedy, a sequel to "Dumb and Dumber," will be released in the U.S. in November.



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/AP

Michael Keaton, left, and Edward Norton star in the dark comedy "Birdman."



COLUMBIA PICTURES, SONY/AP

The comedy "The Interview," starring James Franco, left, and Seth Rogen, is set for release on Christmas Day.

Pei Pei) mourns the recent death of her son Kai (Andrew Leung). Grieving, too, is Kai's lover (Ben Whishaw), who is in a difficult position because Kai never came out to his mother.

"Nightcrawler": Jake Gyllenhaal plays a young man in the business of freelance crime journalism in Los Angeles. With Bill Paxton and Riz Ahmed.

"The Best of Me": Two former high school sweethearts reunite after 20 years, finding each other at the funeral for a mutual friend. Their reunion reignites an forgotten love for one another. Based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks.

"Whiplash": Nineteen-year-old drummer Andrew Neyman dreams of rising to the top of the country's elite music conservatory. He finds a mentor in Terence Fletcher, a domineering instructor and talented conductor.

"Dior and I": A look at the storied fashion institution and Raf Simons' first Haute Couture collection as the new artistic director from filmmaker Frederic Thegn ("Diana Vreeland").

"Laggies": Megan (Keira Knightley) panics when her high school boyfriend (Mark Webber) proposes. She hides out at the home of new friend Annika (Chloe Grace Moretz) until she can decide what to do.

"St. Vincent": A young boy whose parents just

around them to put their focus on career first.

"Dumb and Dumber To": Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels reprise their roles as the best buddies ready for adventure in this comedy sequel by the Farrelly brothers.

"Fury" takes place in April 1945 at the heart of Nazi Germany. Army sergeant Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) commands a tank and a five-man crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. With Shia LaBeouf.

"The Theory of Everything": Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking is played by Eddie Redmayne ("Les Misérables") in a romantic drama and biopic that takes place in the 1960s as Hawking studies at Cambridge University and meets art student Jane Wilde.

"Foxcatcher": A dark psychological drama about Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum), who comes under the tutelage of John E. du Pont (Steve Carell). Du Pont's cruel psychological game begins to erode the wrestler's self-esteem as he also attempts to step out of the shadow of his revered brother (Mark Ruffalo). With Vanessa Redgrave.

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1": Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) returns to District 13 after literally shattering the games forever. Under the leadership of President Coin (Julianne Moore), Katniss sets off to save Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) and an endangered nation moved by her courage.

"Horrible Bosses 2": Nick, Dale and Kurt launch their own business, but an outside investor outplays them and dashes their plans. The trio attempt to regain control by kidnapping the investor's child. Starring Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis.

"The Penguins of Madagascar": Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private are the best cover birds in the global espionage business. The team joins forces with the undercover organization, the North Wind, to take down the villainous Dr. Octavius Brine.

DECEMBER

"Wild": Author Cheryl Strayed brings her best-selling memoir to the screen in a personal story about setting out to hike more than 1,000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail. Starring Reese Witherspoon.

"Exodus: Gods and Kings": Director Ridley Scott retells the biblical story of Moses (Christian Bale) as he brings 600,000 slaves out of Egypt to escape the deadly plagues and Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses (Joaquin Phoenix).

"The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies": The adventures of Bilbo Baggins in Middle-earth conclude in epic fashion as the races of Dwarves, Elves and Men must decide whether or not to unite against forces of darkness converging at the Lonely Mountain.

"Annie": It's been a hard-knock life for young Annie (Quvenzhané Wallis) as she toughs out life on the streets of New York in 1914. Everything changes when she meets mayoral candidate Will Stacks (Jamie Foxx).

"Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb": Larry Daley (Ben Stiller) embarks on a quest to save the powers of a magical tablet.

"The Tub Time Machine 2": Two friends use a hot tub to travel back in time but accidentally end up 10 years into their future. With Craig Robinson, Clark Duke and Rob Corddry.

"Into the Woods": A modern twist on the Brothers Grimm fairy tales and ties together the tales of Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Little Red Riding Hood (Lila Crawford), Jack and the Beanstalk (Daniel Hiltlstone) and Rapunzel (Hiro Hamada).

"Paddington": A young Peruvian bear (voiced by Ben Whishaw) travels to London in search of home. He befriends the kind Brown family who offer him a temporary haven. His luck begins to change for the better until he catches the eye of a museum taxidermist.

"The Interview": Celebrity TV show "Skylark Tonight" is run by Dave Skylark (James Franco) and his producer, Aaron Sorkin (Seth Rogen). The duo discover a fan in North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, so they prepare to travel to Pyongyang to set up an in-person interview. With Lizzy Caplan.

From The Washington Post

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Bad timing for 'No Good Deed'

Thriller containing violence against women debuts amid Ray Rice controversy

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Screen Gems ignores the Ray Rice controversy and national conversation about violence against women with "No Good Deed," a brutal thriller about, you guessed it, a "malignant narcissist" committing all sorts of violence against women.

The team behind "Obsessed" serves up Idris Elba as an escaped convict savagely menacing Taraji P. Henson and assorted other females.

Screen Gems canceled previous showings of this, protecting a "plot twist," they said. No, they were hoping the violence here would not take people out of the movie and into the evening news and sports talk radio, much the way the NFL is hoping images and a news story just go away.

Unlike Disney, which postponed a comic thriller which featured a bomb on a plane as a plot element 13 years ago, they're just trotting this blood-stained melodrama out there and hoping we don't notice.

Would "No Good Deed" have anything worth talking about without the Ray Rice sucker punch tie-in? Barely.

Elba plays Colin, serving time for manslaughter in Tennessee where the parole board has the good sense to not let him go. He escapes, and after checking in with an old flame (Kate del Castillo) stumbles to Terri's door in a wealthy suburb of Atlanta.

It's a rainy night, and his disarming charm takes a while



PHOTOS BY QUANTRELL COLBERT, SCREEN GEMS, SONY/MP

Taraji P. Henson, above left, is terrorized by a smooth-talking escaped convict, played by Idris Elba, in "No Good Deed."

to work on Terri (Hanson). She has two tiny kids, a husband out of town and a suspicious nature. But his baritone and sleepy eyes do their magic, his cover story (he really did have a wreck in the rain) seems logical.

Once he's inside the house, it's just a matter of time before mayhem ensues. Who knew an

84-minute movie could seem this much longer?

Leslie Bibb plays the absurdly flirtatious neighbor-pal, whose come-ons are porn-video obvious. And every so often, something hilariously coincidental changes the subject of awkward conversations — a child cries, a tree crashes through the window.



Elba's a good actor, letting us see Colin size Terri up, reason out her situation, his eyes revealing cunning in one instant, future-tense guilt in the next. "I ain't got nothing to lose," he

New on base

"No Good Deed" is playing at these military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunssum.

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: nogooddeedmovie.com

declares, until his British grammar kicks in. "You stand ... to lose ALL."

Henson does as well as can be expected, playing a fiercely protective mom whose temper apparently takes precedence over her fear, mouthing insults like she's arguing with her husband, but at a huge, monstrous stranger with a gun.

The erotic touches, Terri's coy attention to appearance after the audience has seen Colin as a man of violence, are a joke. And the sexualized extreme close-ups just underline how tin-eared "No Good Deed" would be, even without that security camera footage.

"No Good Deed" is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, menace, terror, and for language. Running time: 84 minutes.

Detective drama 'Walk Among the Tombstones' stumbles

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

With its latest thriller, Universal arrives a day late and a few dollars short in the Liam "Particular Skills" Neeson revenge sweepstakes.

"A Walk Among the Tombstones" has the veneer of high-mindedness the "Taken" movies lack. But it has Neeson's Alcoholic Anonymous detective hanging out with a slang-cracking kid named T.J. (Brian "Astro" Bradley) and working for a drug dealer played by that "Downton Abbey" fussybudget, Dan Stevens, an effeminate Brit with nothing of the vengeful drug dealer about him.

The plot has psych-homosexual elements straight out of the 1950s. The violence against women is horrific and the setting, for no serious reason, is 1999, as America braces for the Y2K bug.

Aside from that, though, it's just great. Well, kind of OK.

Neeson's Matthew Scudder was a hard-drinking cop in the early '90s when an off-duty shootout led him to quit the force. Now

New on base

"A Walk Among the Tombstones" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

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Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: awalkamongthetombstones.net

he's an "unlicensed" problem-solver.

Stevens is Kenny, a "drug trafficker" whose wife was snatched and murdered. He wants the guys who did it.

So Scudder does the shoe-leather work he would have done as a cop, had the drug traf-

ficker wanted cops involved. He asks around.

A weirdo cemetery groundskeeper (Olafur Darri Olafsson) figures in the story. And he stumbles into the kid, T.J., a whiz at these newfangled personal computers.

Writer-director Scott Frank spares us actually seeing the bodies of these women — for the guys doing the killing are serial killers — hacked up. But there's audio and graphic descriptions from the psychopaths, whom we meet early on.

Frank — who did the far superior thriller, "The Lookout" — fails to build Scudder's AA mania into the plot until the third act, losing track of this aspect of his life to make room for more cuties T.J. slang-jokes about how "I want to grow up to be a private eye like Sam Spade."

Neeson is the rock anchoring all this, making the incredible at least passably credible as he lurches into the frame with his limping boxer's gait. But you get the sense that he is no more "Taken" with this than we are.

"A Walk Among the Tombstones" is rated R for strong violence, disturbing images, profanity and brief nudity. Running time: 113 minutes.

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THUR SEPT 18 - WED SEPT 24

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) - Fri 15:45, Sat & Sun 13:00, Tue 16:00

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, 18:15, Fri 15:45, 18:00, 22:30, Sat & Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, Mon - Wed 16:00

Hercules (PG-13) - Sat & Sun 13:30, Wed 16:00

Lucy (PG-13) - Thur 19:00, Fri 18:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 18:15, Mon - Wed 19:00

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, Sat 15:45, Mon 16:00

The Giver (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, 18:00, Sat 13:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 18:00, 20:15, 18:00, 18:00, Tue & Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:00

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WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Workers are busily making preparations for the 181st Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, which starts Saturday and runs to Oct. 5.

RAISE A GLASS AT OKTOBERFEST

It's almost here: At the stroke of noon Saturday, Munich's lord mayor will swing a hammer to pop the first keg of the 181st edition of Oktoberfest. From that point on, the Theresienwiese in downtown Munich will be a mecca for beer drinkers and partygoers all over the world.

Although Oktoberfest is a full-blown fair, most of the action takes place in football-field-size beer tents, some of which hold up to 7,000 people. As brass bands oompah their way through Bavarian drinking songs, friends and strangers, locals and foreigners will toast each other with one-liter beer mugs. They will sing and dance on the benches as servers, with fists full of beer mugs or trays of food, jockey their way through the madness.

Outside, the fairgrounds offer a carnival atmosphere for all ages, with roller coasters, merry-go-rounds and Ferris wheels, slides, shooting galleries and mazes.

On Sunday, the International Costume and Riflemen's Parade takes place. The six-kilometer procession from the city center to the Oktoberfest grounds features groups in folklore costumes, marching bands, riflemen in historical uniforms and the wagons of the Munich breweries.

Oktoberfest continues through Oct. 5. For a map and the full program in English, see www.munich.de.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Gourmet Wales

Looking for a destination to bring you close to the great outdoors? Wales' rugged scenery and a host of active pursuits make it a natural choice. As physical activity is bound to bring on an appetite, a full plate of food festivals over the next few weekends makes a visit to Cymru all the more tempting.

A tasteful choice would no doubt be the Abergavenny Food Festival, running through this weekend. The festival, awarded the country's best event in 2013 by Visit Wales, offers five marketplaces with more than 200 exhibitors, chef demonstrations and live entertainment.

On Saturday, the first ever Night Market will give visitors a chance to sample street food and peruse produce stalls. A "stroller ticket" provides access to the venues; additional tickets are needed to attend some special events and presentations. Adult stroller tickets cost 10 pounds (\$16.20 for Saturday, 8 pounds for Sunday or 15 pounds for both days. Those under age 16 enter for free. Learn more at abergavennyfoodfestival.com.

Taking place simultaneously is the Mold Food & Drink Festival in New Street car park. It offers 120 food and drink producers, celebrity and local chef demonstrations, food and craft workshops, live music by local bands, and children's entertainment. Outdoor catering and live enter-



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

tainment run until late on Saturday night. Adults pay 5 pounds, and ages 3-12 pay 2 pounds for entry on either day. Learn more at moldfoodfestival.co.uk.

Other foodie outings include the smaller Neath Food and Drink Festival, held Oct. 3-4, with its historic market town atmosphere; the Anglesey Oyster & Welsh Produce Festival, Oct. 11-12, with seafood, sausages and sweet and savory treats; and the Gwelld Conwy Feast, Oct. 25-26, offering fresh local mussels and a waterfront location against the backdrop of a 13th-century castle. Dig in!

Wurstmarkt returns

How about another round? That's what's being served up in Bad Dürkheim, as the town's annual Wurstmarkt rebounds for its second weekend of activity.

While the event's namesake of sausage can be found there readily enough, it's really a celebra-

tion of the bounty of the grape. The 598th edition of the world's biggest wine fest will serve 293 wines, including 194 whites, 49 reds, 29 roses and 21 sparkling wines, each the product of the town's own winemakers. Rieslings lead the pack, with 98 to choose from.

Between sipping and sampling, those brave of heart might opt for a turn on one of the attractions. Rides debuting at the Wurstmarkt this year include the "Mega King Tower," at 80 meters the highest transportable free-fall tower in the world; "The King," offering a dizzying array of overhead loops and shakes; a classic roller coaster called "Berg & Tal"; and, for haunted house fans, the "Horror Lazarett." Adrenalin junkies who've attained in the past might rejoice to see the return of the shooting bungee ride known as the "Hot Shot," which propels riders into the air at 100 miles per hour.

Bad Dürkheim lies along the German Wine Road and is easily reached by rail: not a bad way to get around if you plan to indulge. The fair opens Friday and runs through Monday, when fireworks will light up the sky at 9 p.m. Learn more at duerkeheimer-wurstmarkt.de.

Stuttgart flea market

Those with bare cupboards can remedy that on Sunday, when the autumn edition of Stuttgart's flea market sprawls through the city center, or Innenstadt. This event takes place twice annually, once in spring and again at the end of September. With vendor's tables stretching to nearly two miles, there's no shortage of treasure to

sift through. Items up for grabs include antiques, handicrafts and collector's items. This is not a venue for new and mass-produced goods. Track down a treasure or nab a bargain between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the areas of Marktplatz, Kirchstrasse, Untere Hirschstrasse and Dorotheenstrasse.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/leguzpe (German only).



Courtesy of Stadtverwaltung Bad Dürkheim

Sure, there's plenty of wurst available at the 598th Wurstmarkt in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, but the event is best known as the world's biggest wine fest. Visitors can sample 293 wines at the Wurstmarkt, each the product of the town's own winemakers.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

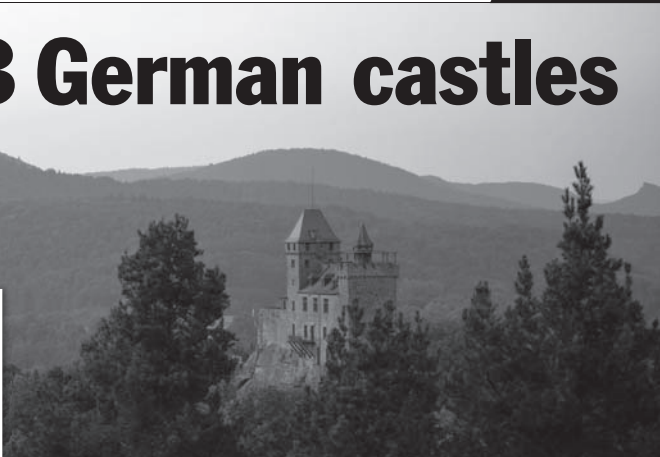
WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

One day, 3 German castles



Much of Burg Drachenfels, a medieval castle ruin in Germany's Palatinate Forest, is cut into a spire of sandstone.



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Burg Berwartstein, a medieval castle in Germany's Palatinate Forest near the French border, as seen from "Little France," a fortification near the castle used in its defense during the Middle Ages.

Palatinate Forest offers medieval archetypes

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Judging from the number of old castles scattered about the Palatinate Forest's southern reaches, you'd think everyone lived in one in the Middle Ages.

Stand atop the ruins of Castle Lindelbrunn, for example, and you can see at least three other castles in various states of disrepair just off to the northeast.

While this abundance might render them somewhat ordinary, it doesn't make them any less interesting. The problem is picking just one to explore. So here are three that can be knocked out in a day: Lindelbrunn, Drachenfels and Berwartstein.

Start with Lindelbrunn, about a 10-minute uphill hike from a parking lot. Nearly surrounded by sandstone cliffs, the castle was all but impenetrable. Feuding lords and bishops threw their armies at it numerous times in the mid-1400s, but never caused any serious damage.

Lindelbrunn's undoing came during the peasant war of 1525. Legend goes that a peasant tricked his way into the castle and lowered the drawbridge, allowing the rest of the angry peasants to get in and ransack the place.

Some of Lindelbrunn's walls remain, but its best feature is the spectacular view, which includes the restored Empire Trifels castle.

Less than four miles southwest of Lindelbrunn is Drachenfels, a castle remnant that towers over the surrounding forest. Built into a spire of sandstone more than 300 feet tall, Drachenfels is by parts striking and terrifying.

Stairs carved from the rock centuries ago snake up and around the sprawling ruins. Cavellike rooms and nearly hid-



A tree grows atop the ruins of Burg Lindelbrunn.

den hallways offer occasional surprises, such as a shallow well and a window with a dizzying view of the faraway ground.

Large portions of Drachenfels are reasonably well preserved and can take well over an hour to fully investigate. Save the most butterfly-inducing part for last: climbing up to the fist of rock at its top. Steel stairs lead to the upper levels, which include more rooms carved from the rock and views of nearby towns and still more castles.

Best for last is Burg Berwartstein, which looms over the tiny village of Erlenbach bei Dahn. Unlike the other castles nearby, Berwartstein has been fully rebuilt and gives visitors a better sense of what life was really like in the Middle Ages.

Like Drachenfels, Berwartstein is partially built into a tower of sandstone, giving the stunning building an organic character. One of its most remarkable features is its well, a 320-foot-deep hole carved into the rock next to the kitchen.

Like Lindelbrunn, Berwartstein was thought to be impenetrable. And like Drachenfels, it was inhabited in the 1200s by well-to-do robber-knights, who

lived by the motto "To ride and to rob is no disgrace."

These ne'er-do-wells would have gotten along well with Hans von Drodt, a field marshal who in the late 1400s made it his headquarters in a campaign to extend the territory of a Palatinate royal. Drodt conquered many of the local villages and another castle, then turned to strongman tactics to make life hell for the Holy Roman Empire and a local abbot, who years earlier levied a church tax on Drodt's brother, according to a pamphlet available at Berwartstein's gift shop.

Under Drodt's command, the castle never fell. But in 1591, after it weathered an untold number of sieges, a fire destroyed much of it. After World War II, castle custodian Alfons Wadle began work to return it to its former glory.

While great for tourism, Berwartstein's rise from the ashes is likely wreaking havoc on the fragile psyches of the region's kids. The legend of Drodt is still very much alive here, according to the pamphlet. Mostly, his name is "used to frighten unruly children."

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ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

All three castles are about an hour south of Kaiserslautern and within six miles of the French border. From Kaiserslautern, head south on the L504, then take a right on the B48. After 17 miles, take a left on the L490. Less than two miles later, take a right onto Wasgastrasse and continue straight onto the K65, which turns into the K91, then the L490. In Vorderweidenthal, turn right at the T junction to stay on L490. As you enter Erlenbach, keep an eye out on the left for the sign for Burg Berwartstein. Park at the top of the hill on the left along-

side the road. Lindelbrunn is at Google Maps coordinates 49.143072, 7.898898; Drachenfels is at 49.121409, 7.830738; and Berwartstein is at 49.108607, 7.862751.

COSTS

The ruins at Lindelbrunn and Drachenfels are free. Tours of Berwartstein cost 4 euros for adults and 3 euros for children 15 and under.

TIMES

The ruins are open daily. Berwartstein is open daily March through October, though hours vary. Generally open from about 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open weekends the rest of the year with similar hours.

FOOD

A restaurant at Berwartstein offers a range of local specialties, such as *flammkuchen* and *saumagen*, plus salads and other light fare.

INFORMATION

Berwartstein also has three posh hotel suites for rent. For information on Berwartstein, visit burgerberwartstein.de.

— Matt Millham



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

Correction

A Quick Trip article in the Sept. 12 edition about the Agriturismo al Ranch in Italy incorrectly stated the cost of spending a night there. The cost of one night's stay is 25 euros. Also, the correct phone number for the ranch is: (+39) 0434653047. The name of the ranch's manager, Mauro Giannelli, also was misspelled.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

On nice days and warm nights in Vicenza, Italy, outside seating at Angolo Palladio is hard to beat and popular with tourists and locals alike.



The restaurant is named for its location close to the white marble basilica designed by the great Renaissance architect Andreas Palladio, and his statue, which stands beside it.

After Hours: Italy

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

On a sunny day or a warm evening, the restaurant Angolo Palladio is tough to beat.

Location? View? Ambiance? You're sitting outside, in Vicenza's main pedestrian-only piazza, looking at the city's most beautiful architectural work, the gleaming marble basilica by Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, Vicenza's favorite son.

You're amidst other happy diners, from German tourists to Vicenza's mayor, in a hub-bubby swirl of talk.

You're ordering from menus in English and attended by a friendly, competent staff, who'll go out of their way to accommodate you, maybe bringing another table outside, offering a free limoncello, or even — gasp! — letting you order lunch when you show up a little late.

It's so easy, so nice, sometimes you almost want to weep with gratitude.



An appetizer of shrimp, eggplant, fennel and peppers at Angolo Palladio costs 10 euros.

All that would be less wonderful if the food and wine weren't usually so good. They are, though, and very reasonably priced to boot.

The menu is small, with about five each of appetizers, first

courses — mostly pasta; second courses — fish, beef and chicken; and desserts — cheesecake, *panna cotta*, *crème brûlée*. Additionally, there are a dozen pizzas and scores of good but inexpensive wines by the glass or bottle.

The menu changes seasonally but maintains many of the same items. And although there are no specials, the kitchen tweaks dishes so that menu items can be a little different from day to day.

At a recent dinner, I had the sliced sirloin with rosemary potatoes and a glass of red wine recommended by the waiter. Was it Valpolicella or Bardolino? I wish I knew, because along with the steak and browned potatoes, it was amazing.

I'd also had the vaguely titled Catalan-style shrimp and vegetables for an appetizer and loved it, too, with its salad greens and fennel.

I ordered that again for lunch even more recently, and it was quite different. It still had the shrimp and the fennel, but those were accompanied by warm egg-

ANGOLO
PALLADIO

Address: Piazzetta Palladio, 12, Vicenza, Italy

Menu: in Italian and English. Limited offerings of appetizers, first and second courses and desserts with seasonal variations.

Hours: Lunch is noon to 2:30 p.m. every day but Thursday; Dinner is 7 p.m. to midnight daily.

Prices: Inexpensive. Appetizers and other courses run from 9 to 16 euros, desserts are 5 euros, wine by the glass runs between 2 and 4 euros.

Dress: Casual.

More information: Telephone: (+39) 0444-327790; website: angolopalladio.it (in Italian).

— Nancy Montgomery

plant and roasted peppers. They are vegetables, and it wasn't bad, but I missed the salad.

The spaghetti *vongole* (with clams) also has been sort of hit or miss for me, sometimes seeming quite bland and other times seeming quite yummy.

But many things are routinely wonderful — among them, a rolled pizza filled with caramelized onions and mozzarella, accompanied by shrimp spiced with turmeric. I'd often seen it on nearby tables — people frequently order it as an appetizer — but had no idea what it was until I finally asked a waitress. Now it's my go-to pizza. But then, so is the one with buffalo mozzarella from Campania, cherry tomatoes and basil.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

Make this
cookie in
a skillet

BY JULIE ROTHMAN
The Baltimore Sun

Carlin Lohrey of Kelso, Wash., was in search of a recipe she had lost that her daughters used to call "goodie balls." That was not the real name, so she has been stumped trying to locate it. She remembers that it had dried fruit and coconut.

Martha Ward of Glen Burnie, Md., saw Lohrey's request and thought she might have the recipe from the 1980s. You can make one long cookie roll and slice cookies from the roll or make the cookies into individual balls instead.

I tested them both ways, and both worked about the same. The Rice Krispies and nuts give these cookies a granola-bar-like texture.

SKILLET NO-BAKE
COOKIES

Makes 2 dozen

Ingredients

3 cups Rice Krispies cereal

½ cup chopped nuts

2 to 4 tablespoons confectioner's sugar

2 to 4 tablespoons shredded sweetened coconut

2 tablespoons butter

2 eggs beaten

1 cup sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

1 cup chopped dates

Directions

Combine Rice Krispies and nuts. Set aside. Place a large piece of wax paper on the counter or table. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar and coconut. Set aside.

In a large skillet, combine butter, eggs, sugar, salt and dates. Cook on low heat until mixture thickens, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in Rice Krispies and nut mixture. Pour mixture lengthwise down the center of the wax paper. Using edge of the wax paper, roll the confectioner's sugar and coconut over the mixture, shaping into a log as you press it to approximately 1½ inches in diameter and 12 to 14 inches long. Add more confectioner's sugar and coconut as needed. Cool in refrigerator for several hours before slicing into 24 half-inch cookies. Store in the refrigerator.

To make cookie balls: Make dough as above, but instead of rolling it into a log, allow cookie mixture to cool enough to handle. Then form into 1- to 2-inch-diameter balls using hands or small scoop. Combine the confectioner's sugar and coconut on a plate and roll each ball in the mixture to roll. Place balls on wax paper-lined cookie sheet and cool in refrigerator until firm.



Of a dozen pizzas on the menu at Angolo Palladio, this rolled one with caramelized onions, mozzarella and turmeric-spiced shrimp is both the unusual and very, very tasty. It costs 13 euros.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Greek classics



Apollo's temple overlooks the "Chora," or Old Town, on the island of Naxos and offers spectacular sunset views.

PHOTOS BY PEGGY SISWERDA
Special to Stars and Stripes

Lesser-known islands enchant with artifacts, temples and exquisite views

By PEGGY SISWERDA

Special to Stars and Stripes

The Greek islands have enchanted travelers for thousands of years. Maybe it's because

Greece serves as the backdrop for some of the world's oldest myths and legends. Stories of Hercules, Achilles and Helen of Troy, like magnets, pull us to the islands' rocky shores.

Choosing which Greek island to visit can be daunting, however. About 230 inhabited islands spread across the Ionian, Aegean, and south Mediterranean seas, including the popular destinations of Santorini, Mykonos and Crete. For our first trip, my husband, Peter, and I opted to explore lesser-known isles.

We began our greek adventure with a one-day jaunt with Olympic Cruises from Piraeus, the port of Athens, to three islands in the Saronic Gulf, southwest of Athens.

Our first stop was the postcard-pretty island of Hydra and its horseshoe-shaped town that encircles the port. Here, horses and donkeys provide the only transportation. The island's history museum is known for its archives and artifacts related to Hydra's role in Greece's War of Independence in the 19th century.

The island of Poros was our second stop, where we hiked to a clock tower overlooking the harbor. At the top, we were greeted by an elderly Greek woman who was sitting on a rock and enjoying the spectacular view.

"Yassas" (pronounced yah-sus), she said, offering us the Greek word for hello, and together we shared the beauty of the moment.

Our final stop was the island



Regular customers? A fishing boat selling freshly caught calamari attracts hungry felines in the port of Hydra.

of Aegina, where we visited the Sanctuary of Aphaia, a site where worship dates to 1300 B.C. and where the ruins of three temples have been excavated.

The surviving temple sits on a hill with sweeping views of green mountains and the cerulean sea.

The next day, we caught the Blue Star Ferry from Piraeus to the Cyclades. The four-hour journey passed quickly, and soon Parikia, the capital of Paros, loomed before us. One of Paros' most-visited sites is the Holy Shrine of Ekatoniptiliani, or a Hundred Doors. While Babis, our guide, explained the church's history, an older woman wrapped in a shawl entered the cavernous interior, made the sign of the cross and kissed a painting of the Virgin Mary, one of the church's revered icons.

Nearby, the Paros Archaeological Museum displays a treasure trove of ancient Greek artifacts, including marble sarcophagi, a mosaic of Hercules perform-

ing his labors and a grinning winged sculpture called the Fat Lady, purported to be the first sculpted human figure.

Babis then took us to the Ancient Marble Quarry, a short drive from Parikia, where we met Tassos, a smiling elderly gentleman who was carving a wooden donkey saddle. He spoke no English, but he happily let his task to show us around the quarry and his modest home-stead.

The quarry is closed now but once produced tons of Parian marble, known for its translucent quality and ethereal glow. When we left, Tassos gave me a carved piece about the size of a quarter and some tasty dried figs.

Naxos is a short ferry ride away and the largest of the Cyclades, but the Chora, or Old Town, is cozy and quaint with labyrinthine streets. As we stood in front of a tourist sign, a man on a scooter pulled up. Dimitris worked for the Naxos tourism



NOGA AMIRAN/Stars and Stripes

department and offered to be our guide. How perfect.

Unlike many of the smaller Cycladic islands, Naxos has a thriving economy because of its fertile soil. The island produces everything from olive oil to potatoes renowned for their flavor, as well as livestock. Tourism is also important, and you don't have to look far to find a gorgeous beach with calm, sparkling water.

Dimitris took us to the Temple of Dionysus, then to the Temple of Demeter, located in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains. Naxos is home to three larger-than-life stone figures called kouroi, which some say were created to honor Dionysus. In a lush grove of trees, we paid homage to one that looked like a sleeping giant.

Every evening Peter and I walked to the Temple of Apollo, also known as Apollo's Window, at the harbor's edge. Summertime visitors can see the sun set through the window, but we were happy to watch the sun set wherever it wanted from this magical spot.

Ios, a one-hour ferry ride from Naxos, is known for its tremendous views, but as luck would have it, our visit was marred by wind and rain. So, instead, we focused on archaeological sites such as Skarkos, a prehistoric settlement atop a hill whose ruins undulate in a circular pattern down the sides of the hill.

According to legend, the Greek poet Homer is buried on Ios, so we visited the burial site at the end of a long, winding road on the island's north side. The trail to the remote, windy spot was lined with cairns, led by pilgrims to honor this ancient poet whose epics continue to influence writers and artists today.

Peggy Siswerda is a freelance writer who lives in Virginia.

HAESE

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PEGGY SIJSWERDA/Special to Stars and Stripes

Colorful bougainvillea decorate stone walkways that wind throughout Parikia, the largest city on Paros.

KNOW & GO

• **Getting there:** Many of Europe's domestic airlines offer affordable airfares to Athens.
 • **Accommodations:** We stayed at the Sofitel at the airport (sofitel.com).
 • **Costs:** Hotels range from \$60 on the low season to \$100 and up in the high season. Car rental on each island costs \$30-\$50 per day. Guides run \$75-\$150 per day. The tourism office on each

island can recommend a guide who will customize an itinerary to you.

• **Food:** Authentic Greek restaurants abound. Ask at the tourist office for local favorites.

• **More information:** The one-day cruise from Piraeus is a perfect introduction to the islands for folks on a tight schedule: olympiccruises.gr. For transportation to the Cyclades, consider

bluestarferries.com. You can buy a ticket from Piraeus that includes stops at Paros, Naxos, Ios and Santorini, where you can catch a convenient flight back to Athens or take the ferry back.

To learn more about these lesser-known Greek islands, go to visitgreece.gr, www.paros.gr, naxos.gr and ios.gr.

— Peggy Sijswerda



Restaurant Directory

GERMANY



Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area	Kaiserslautern area	Mainz / Wiesbaden area
 Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolastr. 8, 52627 Weiden-Opf. Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34072 www.peking-weiden.de	 Trattoria Da Salvatore Fleischercherlo 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com	 PAPPEL HAUS Steinertstrasse 2 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!
 PALLAS Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62	 China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking	 Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808
 KB's Country & Western Saloon Berge, 4, 9229 Vilseck 09662-701481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00	 Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewegpizzeria.de	 Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de
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 Kaiserslautern area QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828	 Gabriel's Restaurant Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden - Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel-restaurant.de	 Joden's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodens-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



AP

CELEBRATE AUTUMN IN TOKYO

Samna, or Pacific saury, a popular dish of the season in Japan, is grilled over a charcoal fire at the base of Tokyo Tower in Tokyo in 2013. This year, Ofunato Fishery Port of Iwate prefecture, Japan, will give away grilled samna fish 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Tokyo Tower parking lot.

OFF BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

UFC FIGHT NIGHT JAPAN 2014 (Saitama prefecture): Sept. 20, 2:30 p.m.; Mark Hunt vs. Roy Nelson and more at Saitama Super Arena; 9,800-100,000 yen; 0570-550-799.

AUTUMN BEER FESTIVAL (Saitama prefecture): Sept. 20, noon-7 p.m. & Sept. 21, 10:30-6 p.m.; taste beers from Belgium, U.S. and more at Keyaki Hiraba of Saitama Super Arena; free admission.

KAYAKING & OUTDOOR FESTIVAL (Aomori prefecture): Sept. 27 & 28; experience kayaking, kayaking race, concerts, talk shows, food booths and more; Lake Ogawara

Camping Site; 0176-59-2311.

SHINAGAWA SHUKUBA FESTIVAL 2013 (Tokyo): Sept. 27 & 28, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Shinagawa, formerly a posting station on Tokaido Highway during the Edo period (1603-1868), features a procession of courtesans Saturday, and a parade depicting the life and manner during the Edo period from Kita Shinagawa to Minami Shinagawa on Sunday.

SUPER AMERICAN FESTIVAL (Shizuoka prefecture): Sept. 28; American vintage cars, Harley Davidson motorcycles parade and more; Fuji Speedway, 694, Nakahinata, Oyamacho, Sunto-gun; 3,500 yen in advance, 4,500 yen at site.

TOKYO BAY CRUISE: Through Sept. 30, 7:15 p.m.; departs Takeshishi Pier Terminal; 2,600 yen adults; nouryouzen.jp.

South Korea

BUCKWHEAT COSMOS AND BUCKWHEAT FESTIVAL (South Gyeongsang province): Sept. 20-Oct. 5; concerts, photo contest and more; Jikeon town and Imyeong town area, Hadong-gun; tour.hadong.go.kr.

HONGWON PORT JEONEO & CRAB FESTIVAL (Chungcheongnam-do): Sept. 20-Oct. 5; jeoneo — gizzard shads — are a delicacy in Korea. Enjoy a fresh catch of this fish served up in a variety of ways; Hongwonhang Port area; tinyurl.com/lydpmv9.

ANDONG MASKDANCE FESTIVAL: Sept. 26-Oct. 5; more than 50 events and hands-on experience programs, including the national and international mask dance performance and mask dance learning puppet play; fee; maskdance.com.



©INTO

TRADITIONAL EVENT ON OKINAWA: Lion Dance Festival

See lion dance — shishimai — which is known to have the power to ward off spirits, at the Agena Bullring at 6 p.m. on Oct. 5. For more on lion dance: tinyurl.com/nc35yh.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

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September							October							November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

WINE FESTIVALS IN JAPAN

AYA WINE HARVEST FESTIVAL

(Miyazaki prefecture): Sept. 20 & 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; enjoy barbecue with a glass of wine selected from six varieties of wine, two kinds of sparkling wine, or a brandy; first 500 people receive free coupons; Shusen-No Mori parking lot, 25-minute drive from Miyazaki Nishi I.C. on Kita Kyushu Express; 1,500 yen.

WORLD WINE FESTIVAL (Tokyo)

Through Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; 50 varieties of wines from throughout the world; Tokyo Midtown Atrium; free; 03-3458-4739; www.tokyo-midtown.com/en.

OOHASAMA WINE FESTIVAL (Iwate prefecture)

Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; taste fresh red and white wines produced by Edel Wein Brewery, with local foods, live concerts and more; Oohasama Grape Yard, 30-minute ride from JR Hanamaki Station.

KATSUNUMA WINE FESTA

(Yamanashi prefecture): Oct. 4, 10 a.m.; enjoy wines from 23 nearby producers after purchasing a glass for 1,000 yen at Katsunuma Chuo Koen, five-minute drive from Katsunuma I.C. on Chuo Express or 10-minute bus ride from JR Katsunuma Budogo Station on Chuo Line (100 yen); 0553-32-1000.

IKEDA-CHO WINE FESTIVAL

(Hokkaido): Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; wine and all-you-can-eat Takachi beef steaks; next to Wine Castle, Kiyomi, 10-minute walk from Ikeda Station on Nemuro Line or 50-minute drive from Takachi

Obihiro Airport; 4,000 yen adults, 2,000 yen youths, 1,000 yen children, limited to 5,000; tinyurl.com/pqlapgv.

TSUKIURA WINE FESTIVAL

(Hokkaido): Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; enjoy fresh wines along with barbecue at Greenstay Toyako, 30-minute drive from JR Toya Station on Muroran Line; 1,700 yen white wine and barbecue set, 1,900 yen red wine and barbecue set.

TAKAHATA WINERY HARVEST FESTIVAL (Yamagata prefecture)

Oct. 8-13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; wines and live music at Takahata Winery, 10-minute walk from JR Takahata Station on Ou Line or Yamagata Sinkansen; free.

CHATEAU MERCIAN HARVEST FESTIVAL 2014 (Yamanashi prefecture)

Oct. 11-13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; enjoy fresh wines brewed at Chateau Mercian, three-minute drive from Katsunuma I.C. on Chuo Express or eight-minute taxi ride from JR Katsunuma Budogo Station on Chuo Line; 500 yen for five coupons, 1,000 yen for 10 coupons plus one service wine; 0553-44-1011; www.chateaumercian.com.

EAT WINE TOYAMA (Toyama prefecture)

Oct. 12, noon-9 p.m.; enjoy 80 varieties of wines from 10 countries; Toyama Grand Plaza; 3,000 yen for advance ticket, includes 30 coupons; <http://eatwine.org>.

BELLE FORET WINE FESTIVAL

(Yamanashi prefecture): Oct.

25 & 26, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; enjoy fresh wines and cheese, along with grape-splitting contest, live concerts and more; five-minute walk from JR Shiozaki Station on Chuo Line; 0551-28-4451.

MOUNTWINE FRESH WINE FESTIVAL

(Yamanashi prefecture): Oct. 26 & 27, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; enjoy wines produced by Mountwine Co., and live concerts; 22-minute ride from Kofu Showa I.C. on Chuo Express; 1,500 yen.

YAMANASHI NOUVEAU 2014

— TOKYO: Nov. 2 & 3, 10:30

a.m.-3 p.m.; enjoy tasting 60 varieties of wine produced by 37 wineries in Yamanashi prefecture at Hibiya Park Fountain Square, two-minute walk from Hibiya Station on Hibiya Line; 2,000 yen for 10 coupons, plus a wine glass.



For more wine festivals: stripes.com/go/pacwine

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

A cultural treasure

Honolulu's Chinatown enjoys a renaissance after overcoming obstacles

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

For a glimpse of what Honolulu looked like 100 years ago, head to Chinatown, a roughly five-block square neighborhood in the heart of the city's downtown.

Nowhere else in the state can you find such a wide range of architectural styles as in this small area, everything from Renaissance and Florentine Gothic to Beaux Arts.

As a unique district on Hawaii's most populated island of Oahu, it's a must-see for tourists. And whether you're a visitor or resident, Chinatown offers a heavenly concentration of Asian restaurants and stalls selling fresh produce, fish and meat.

The district's businesses are now dominated by the most recent waves of immigration from Vietnam and the Philippines, but the neighborhood earned its name in the latter half of the 19th century with the influx of Chinese hired as contract workers for the sugar fields.

As those contracts ended, many Chinese established businesses or took new jobs in the area that became known as Chinatown, with roughly 5,000 Chinese living in Honolulu by 1882.

Ironically, many of the classic buildings of Chinatown exist today because of two massive fires at the end of the 19th century.

By 1886, Chinatown was a warren of one- and two-story wooden shacks that housed not just people but also animals. When a fire broke out one night that year, it quickly spread and destroyed eight blocks of the district. In response, the city government decreed that future buildings be built of brick or stone and that streets be widened.

Alas, the regulations weren't enforced, paving the way for the Great Honolulu Chinatown Fire of 1900.

A Chinese bookkeeper had been diagnosed with bubonic plague the year before, and Chinatown was quarantined under military guard, according to a history written by the Honolulu



PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

In Honolulu's Chinatown, dragons and lions adorn the entrance to the Maunakea Marketplace, a collection of shops and restaurants. Chinatown offers a wide range of architectural styles.

Culture and Arts District Association.

The local board of health instituted a series of "sanitary" fires, burning down buildings it believed had been exposed to the so-called "black death." When the winds unexpectedly changed direction during a controlled burn in January 1900, fire once again swept through the wooden buildings of Chinatown, leaving the district smoldering for 17 days and nights.

The neighborhood was reconstructed primarily as a business district — this time actually using more fire-resistant materials — because most of its former inhabitants had made homes elsewhere during rebuilding. Significantly, most of the new buildings were built of brick and stone in the early 20th century, and most stand today.

Among the notable are: **• Former New Senator Hotel, 121 No. Hotel St.:** One of about 25 establishments that made up Honolulu's red light district

during the World War II era. The territory of Hawaii had established a system of controlled prostitution beginning in 1935, which more or less stayed in place until 1944 as the war was coming to a close.

A pedestrian walkway near this building was the scene location of a brawl between characters played by Ernest Borgnine and Frank Sinatra in the 1953 film "From Here to Eternity."

• Yokohama Specie Bank, 36 Merchant St.: A Beaux Arts-style building constructed in 1908, the Imperial Japanese Government had used this bank as its agent in Honolulu. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the Alien Custodian Agency confiscated the property and liquidated its holdings.

The U.S. Army turned the basement into an ad hoc jail during World War II, and it was often used to lock up service members involved in benders and brawls.

• McLean Block, 1121 Nuuanu Ave.: Built almost immediately after the 1900 fire, this Renaissance Revival-style building has housed everything from a garment factory to a bar.

Chinatown's heyday, for good or bad, was during World War II, when a flood of soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors moved through Hawaii on their way to the war in the Pacific.

"Quick to spend military paychecks before entering combat zones, men indulged in drinking, tattoos, souvenirs, massages, penny arcades, fortune telling and prostitutes within a 10-block area of Chinatown," according to a history of those years posted on website of the Honolulu Culture and Arts District Association.

"There was a lights-out policy at sunset instituted after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which increased the urgency to fit in all vice activities during the day. These factors, combined with price controls, created a common scene in WWII Chinatown



KNOW & GO

- **Getting there:** Frequent city buses travel through Chinatown on Nimitz Highway and King Street, including the number 20 from Waikiki Beach. For a complete listing see: tbus.org/Route/Routes.asp.
- **Parking:** Metered street parking is limited. There is a municipal parking ramp with meters; entry off Nimitz Highway between Kekaulike and River streets. There is an outdoor parking lot off Nimitz Highway between Maunakea and Kekaulike streets.
- **For information on history and architecture, see:** chinatownhonolulu.org

— Wyatt Olson

— lines everywhere, and lots of them. Some bars served patrons four shots at once so they would leave quickly to make room for the next customers."

The blend of booze, prostitutes and ink shops gave rise to the mantra of the day: "Stewed, Screwed and Tattooed."

Today's Chinatown is sedate by comparison, but it's still a hub of activity during mornings as vendors lay out freshly caught whole fish, along with vegetables and fruits, some of which are raised on the islands. And there's no better price for produce in Honolulu than in Chinatown.

The indoor food court at Maunakea Marketplace offers a nice selection of prepared Asian dishes, from the Korean Kitchen and Malee Thai Cuisine to Naty's Kitchen serving Filipino food.

Most vendors close by 2 p.m., so when it comes to Chinatown, arrive early and come hungry.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

Craftworks Taphouse is popular with both expats and South Koreans for its craft-brewed beers, American-style meals and laid-back atmosphere.

After Hours: South Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

Sure, Korean food can be yummy, but sometimes you want a taste of home — and Craftworks Taphouse would be at home anywhere in America.

Craftworks offers American-style meals that stand out for their fresh ingredients. One of its three Seoul outlets is just across the street from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan's Gate 21, also known as the Kimchi Pot Gate.

Popular with expats and Koreans alike, the restaurant offers brunch, lunch, dinner and pub standards, from hamburgers and sandwich wraps to unusual offerings like pulled-pork pancakes with bourbon maple syrup (13,000 won).

But — no surprise given its name — Craftworks is perhaps best known for its Korean-brewed beers made with spring water, ranging from the Baekdusan Hefeweizen to the Sorak Oatmeal Stout. Can't decide what to try? Order the sampler paddle of seven beers (10,500).

We went to the Namsan branch on a recent holiday afternoon when the restaurant was crowded with mostly young Koreans and were seated on the shaded open-air patio at a high-top approximately one foot away from the adjoining table. My dining companion grumbled about sitting nearly elbow to elbow with another customer and had to almost shout to be heard over the din of talking and loud music.

He grew even crabrier after our server — who repeatedly couldn't figure out how to operate the smartphone-like device she was using to take our order

CRAFTWORKS

Directions: Leave Yongsan's Gate 21. You'll see Craftworks across the street. To get there, either take a right when you leave the gate and use the pedestrian underpass to cross the road, or take a left outside the gate and take the pedestrian bridge.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Prices: Most brunch, lunch and dinners are in the 10,000-15,000 won range. Locally brewed beers are 6,500-8,000 won per glass.

More information: Phone (Namsan branch) 02-794-2537. You can make reservations online at craftworkstaphouse.com.

— Ashley Rowland

— told us that his top three draft beer choices were sold out.

But a few sips of a cold Halla Mountain Golden Ale, named after the Jeju Island landmark and described by Craftworks as having a "malty influence" with a "slightly sweet finish with hints of caramel," soon soothed him. He described it as rich and a giant step up from Korea's cheap but watery popular beers.

I ordered the Mexican taco salad with fried tofu (12,000 for the salad and 4,000 extra for the tofu); chicken, pulled pork and meat toppings are available. My companion ordered a "fire" buffalo chicken sandwich (13,000 won). While he gave it a thumbs-



Craftworks Taphouse serves local beers brewed with spring water, including this malty Halla Mountain Golden Ale.



Craftworks Taphouse's buffalo chicken sandwich, front, and Mexican taco salad, back.

up, it was at best a disappointing five out of 10 on the spiciness scale, despite a warning from our server about the potential impact on his insides.

Craftworks also offers desserts — the red velvet cake at the neighboring table looked particularly appetizing — and a pub grub menu until midnight, featuring such standards as french fries (8,000 won), nachos (12,000 won); add beef chili for 4,000 won) and chicken wings, with flavors ranging from honey mustard to teriyaki.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

Lose power? Here's what you can keep that's in the fridge

Detroit Free Press

Ah, storm season. In addition to worrying that whipping winds are going to cause a tree branch to impale your roof, or that the basement is going to flood, there is the more mundane problem of the power going out. Sure, you can tolerate a few hours in the dark, but how about the contents of your refrigerator? It's a sickening feeling to watch the hours go by while food you have paid for is likely spoiling and will need to be thrown out and replaced.

It's been a few hours, must you really toss everything?

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has guidelines for determining food safety in the case of power outages from severe storms and flooding (see "Consumer," then "Food safety education" at fsis.usda.gov). Among the tips:

- When it comes to foods that might have been compromised during a power outage, the best rule to follow is: When in doubt, throw it out.
- Never taste a food to determine its safety.

- Do not open the refrigerator and freezer doors during the outage (doing so lets the cold air escape).

- If your power was out just a few hours and you didn't open the refrigerator or freezer, chances are the food is OK. A refrigerator should keep food cold for four hours, and a half-full freezer 24 hours (48 hours if the freezer is full) if you don't open the doors.

- If you know the power will be out for a long time, get ice or dry ice to keep foods cold.

- Use a refrigerator-freezer thermometer to check the temperatures.

- Store meats, poultry and seafood separately and away from other perishables such as

produce in case they thaw and leak through packaging.

- Surround food with ice to keep it cold or place in a cooler to keep it cold. Replenish with ice often.

- In either the refrigerator or freezer, if the temperature is 40 degrees or below, the food is safe.

- Check the packages. If food still contains ice crystals or is at 40 degrees or below when checked with a food thermometer, you can refreeze it.

Foods to toss

Bacteria growth can take place in these foods that have been above 40 degrees for two hours or more:

- Meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, yogurt, eggs, leftovers, hot dogs, bacon, lunch meats, pizza, shredded cheeses, casseroles, pasta and pasta sauces.

- Cream-based salad dressings, sauces and soups.

- Opened mayonnaise, tartar sauce and horseradish.

- Pasta salads with creamy or mayonnaise-based dressings.

- Sour cream-based dips.

- Fruits and vegetables that have become slimy or spoiled.

Foods to keep

- Condiments, such as ketchup, mustard, jelly, jams, soy sauce and bottled marinade. Typically these have high salt and sugar content that can act as a preservative.

- Bread and rolls.

- Fruits and vegetables that show no signs of decay.

- Well-wrapped hard cheeses.

- Nuts (refrigerated or frozen) can be refrozen.

- If foods have thawed and not been above 40 degrees for more than 2 hours, you can cook and serve it or refreeze it.



ROMAIN BLANCHARD/Detroit Free Press

Produce that has been compromised due to power outages should be thrown away, according to the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Find complete guidelines at fsis.usda.gov.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Justin Townes Earle

Single Mothers (Vagrant)

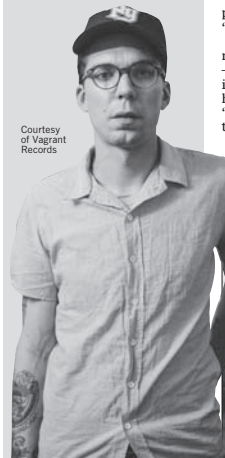
Justin Townes Earle, a guitar-wielding practitioner of bluesy folk music, comes up short on "Single Mothers," 10 tracks of wacky Americana with impractical melodies that are hard to care about.

The son of Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Steve Earle has earned his own way musically, releasing five albums. He plays a nice guitar and sings, passably at best, about nice topics. But something rings false about the delivery, as though he's performing out of his genre and is merely an artistic interloper.

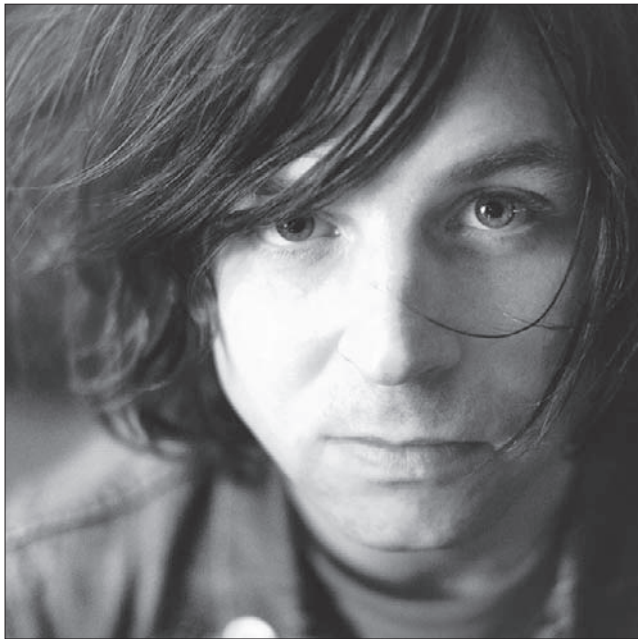
The title track is ostensibly about broken homes, but it's hard to tell amid the overly verbose lyrical plot line. "Wanna Be A Stranger" is similarly afflicted. The music and pace is fine, and the lyrics themselves are nicely constructed.

Earle just needs someone else to sing them. His effete, indie growl of a voice doesn't touch your heart well enough to pull you in deeper.

— Ron Harris
The Associated Press



Courtesy of Vagrant Records



JULIA BROKAW/Courtesy of Nasty Little Man



Lee Brice

I Don't Dance (Curb)

On Lee Brice's third album, "I Don't Dance," he furthers his reputation as the most sensitive of the ball cap-bedecked male singers grouped under the "bro country" banner.

Like the others, Brice packs albums with testaments to consequence-free partying ("No Better Than This") and an idealized version of rural life ("My Carolina"). However, in his arrangements and lyrics, Brice takes creative liberties that pay off in ways few of his peers accomplish. Like Brad Paisley before him, Brice comes off as a risk-taker willing to push the boundaries of what country can address in a 3-minute song.

Where Brice truly sets himself apart is on his ballads. The title song, a recent No. 1 country hit, as well as on "That Don't Sound Like You," "Good Man" and other songs, he reveals a talent for avoiding cliché and displaying an empathy for the real-life concerns of women.

As the album title suggests, the hefty Brice isn't likely to dazzle with fancy footwork. But when it comes to insightful looks at modern life, he is a step ahead of most other contemporary country hit-makers.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press

Adams finds calmer ground

By MIKAEL WOOD

Los Angeles Times

Ryan Adams says that before he wrote and recorded his new, self-titled album, he scrapped an entirely different record he'd completed with the esteemed English producer Glyn Johns, who had overseen Adams' "Ashes & Fire" from 2011.

No surprise there: At 39, Adams already has made more music than many — perhaps most — artists twice his age; his catalog is full of limited-edition releases that live in the shadows of his higher-profile projects. What's unexpected about "Ryan Adams" if you know the record's back story, though, is how even-tempered it feels, not at all like the impulsive bloodletting its origin story might suggest.

Featuring a small rock band that includes Tal Wilkenfeld on bass and Benmont Tench on organ, the 11-track set has a bigger, more forceful sound than the acoustic "Ashes & Fire." "Kim" even crests with a noisy guitar solo by Johnny Depp, one of



Ryan Adams

Ryan Adams (Pax Am/Blue Note)

many luminaries known to drop by regularly at Adams' Hollywood recording studio.

But the handsome melodic hooks and sturdy roots-music grooves, some of which are downright Tom Petty-ish, provide a hard-won equilibrium in songs about searching for relief from unspecified ailments. "All my life been shaking, wanting something/Holding everything I had like it was broken," he sings in the album's low-slung opener, "Gimme Something Good."

Whatever Adams was after, he appears to have found it.

Blue Cheer, and much of what he does would mesh nicely with the original "Nuggets" compilation. But on the 17-track "Manipulator" — which effectively employs a string section on the tense "The Clock" and two other tracks — he makes enticing garage rock that shimmers and shakes in the present, with his best character-sketch songs showing depth beneath the gleaming surface.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Ty Segall

Manipulator (Drag City)

Ty Segall is so prolific as a solo artist, serial collaborator, and moonlighter in other people's bands that the buzz on "Manipulator" is about how the Southern California psych-rockers has slowed his roll to spend a year laboring on his seventh album.

Segall's sensibility is still retro — reference points are '60s hippie aesthetes like Love and



The New Pornographers

Brill Bruisers (Matador Records)

The New Pornographers have spent each record pushing forward, trying new things while always sounding like themselves, and "Brill Bruisers" is a solid, satisfying record, one that found a fresh approach and created some more ultra-catchy pop tunes. If the freshness dulls on occasion when the new approach gets overused, you can still hear the quality underneath, even if you're more inclined to move the needle back to the tunes that leave their bruise more immediately.

— Matthew Fiander
PopMatters.com

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

The game's story unfolds centuries in the future, after humans have discovered an immense and powerful extra-terrestrial sphere they call the Traveler. This technological wonder has provided the knowledge to terraform Venus and Mars and triple the span of human life.

Unfortunately, the Traveler also came with an enemy: the Darkness. It took this alien presence several centuries to reach Earth but, when it arrived, it practically obliterated human civilization. Now, there is only one safe city left on Earth and you and other gamers are the species' last hope: the Guardians.

You start off by creating a Guardian. You can choose among three character classes and three "races." The classes are heavy fighters, snipers and warlocks, who wield mystical powers. The races are standard humans, androids and the Awoken, who are sort of like blue space elves. The Awoken descend from humans

who were separated from the rest of the species when the Darkness launched its onslaught. After selecting your class and race, you choose

from a limited number of facial types, hairstyles and skin tones. Unfortunately, the selection is rather limited in each of these categories when compared to other games.

As you progress through the game, your character will gain new armor, weapons and skills in typical role-playing game fashion. Each class has its own special abilities, which can be used to devastating effect. For example, the Titan heavy fighter class can leap into the air and pound the ground with such force that nearby enemies are killed or wounded. And warlocks fling potent energy balls at foes.

Your base of operations is in the last city. Here, you can obtain missions, buy gear and find other gamers to fight alongside. The place is filled with avatars, so finding an ally to help with an adventure isn't hard.

When you leave the city, things get interesting. The solar system is filled with nefarious foes linked to the Darkness. The Fallen are an alien species running rampant over most of the solar system. The Vex are a collection of robots that have a hold on Venus, now a lush jungle planet. The Cabal is a militaristic race that plagues Mars. And the Hive is a zombie-like race that might remind "Halo" fans a bit of the Flood. Although these races often fight each other, they save plenty of ammo to fire at you.

Most storyline missions can be accomplished solo, but are much more enjoyable when you join a friend or two. These missions involve standard video game deeds, such as killing a bunch of baddies, gathering intelligence or picking



A date with 'Destiny'

A balanced combination keeps sci-fi shooter fun

By BRIAN BOWERS/Stars and Stripes

When the developer of the sci-fi shooter "Halo" joined with the publisher of the combat classic "Call of Duty," it seemed like a dream team. And, indeed, the Bungie/Activision pairing delivers on a good deal of its promise with "Destiny."

The game's multiplayer competition feels a lot like Activision's "Call of Duty," offering frantic firefights in a variety of game play modes. And its mechanics, especially the physics and weapon characteristics, feel like those from Bungie's

over-clocked "Halo" universe.

But at its core, the game diverges from both franchises and offers something that's reminiscent of the offbeat shooter "Borderlands," with several distinct character classes and the ability to play cooperatively with friends in a world overflowing with evildoers. In addition, developers threw in a few elements that will be familiar to fans of massive multiplayer online games.

Overall, it's a balanced combination that keeps "Destiny" enjoyable.



The new sci-fi shooter "Destiny" lets players personalize and upgrade every aspect of how they look and fight with a nearly limitless combination of armor, weapons and visual customizations.

Photos courtesy of Bungie/Activision



up some helpful object. Unfortunately, they can start feeling repetitive after a planet or two.

Things get more exciting when you team with two other players — either friends or randomly assigned gamers — to tackle strike missions, which are scattered throughout the storyline. These feature swarms of foes topped off by a boss or two who kick the action into higher gear.

In addition to these missions, you can go on patrol, which involves wandering a planet's surface and picking up small quests, which are usually just excuses to engage in gunplay with dozens of enemies and acquire loot and experience. However, patrols can turn from routine to extreme in short order when a "public event" occurs. The Darkness drops a horde of enemies into the

middle of the map, and Guardians from around the planet suddenly pop up to do battle — and cash in on the rewards.

Beyond the storyline missions, you can jump into the Crucible, a good ol' multiplayer slugfest. There are several styles of play to choose from, including variations on capture the flag, team death match and free-for-all. The battlefields are well designed for

Overall grade: **B+**

the sort of fast-paced combat that "Call of Duty" is known for.

You can start competitive play once you reach the fifth level, but be aware that you'll immediately be thrown in with gamers of all experience levels. There is a modest attempt to equalize things a wee bit, but you're still going to serve as cannon fodder until you've had time to gather some good gear and experience.

The weapons will be familiar to any shooter fan: shotguns, sniper rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, powerful pistols and rocket launchers. Most of these are pretty standard, but you'll occasionally find a weapon that does extra "elemental" damage, such as burning or freezing. For something a little more spectacular, you can try a fusion rifle, which can be absolutely devastating in the right circumstances.

Overall, "Destiny" delivers plenty of action. Much like "Borderlands," there's always something to fight. But also like "Borderlands," you aren't going to find a very complex story or character development. "Mass Effect" showed that game stories and characters could be every deep and compelling, and even "Halo" managed to make Master Chief more than an action hero. However, my "Destiny" character seemed to be a standard-issue video game warrior who had nothing to make him interesting beyond cool gear and impressive stats.

For the most part, the game is excellent technically.

The graphics are superb. There's the same sense of realism that you expect from new-generation "Call of Duty" games. The characters move realistically, and the settings are filled with a tremendous amount of detail and texture.

The interface is also well designed. The controls are efficient and responsive. And even with all of the different options and role-playing elements, everything works smoothly. There's little fuss or menu management required.

Unfortunately, online aspects of the game can sometimes be plagued by connection issues. At least once a day, it seems that my connection — or a co-op partner's — failed and ended a mission. Believe me, that can be incredibly frustrating if you're about to complete a complex strikes mission.

The game is rated T for teens, which means there is little that's objectionable beyond the violence.

Bottom line: B+ "Destiny" delivers plenty of action and excitement, especially when played cooperatively. However, it suffers a bit from repetitive missions and a shallow storyline.

Platforms: Xbox One, Xbox 360, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 3
Online: destinythegame.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: BOOKS



The tomes of autumn

Titles by Dunham, Poehler among this fall's most anticipated books

The Sacramento Bee illustration

By HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

So many memoirs are coming out this fall, written in so many ways.

Neil Patrick Harris, for instance, decided that his early 40s was too young for a "life" story, even for a Tony- and Emmy-winning actor. So he has completed "Neil Patrick Harris: Choose Your Own Autobiography," in which Harris steps back into the second person to allow you to imagine yourself onstage, on television, or, in November 2006, on edge as you prepare to tell the world you're gay.

"I couldn't wrap my mind around a structure that made sense to me — to pass on words of wisdom or to write some salacious tell-all. My life hasn't been like that," Harris said during a recent interview.

"So I came upon this conceit of 'choose your own adventure,' to allow readers to choose which autobiography they were interested in. You can have poignancy; you can have funny remembrances, or whatever path you want to follow."

Lena Dunham of "Girls" fame has written "Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's Learned," a non-advice advice book in which she hopes that readers will know when and when not to emulate "a girl with a keen interest in having it all."

Amy Poehler's "Yes Please" promises a "big juicy stew of personal stories, funny bits on sex and love and friendship and parenthood and real life advice."

Keith Richards, having taken care of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in his million-selling "Life," turns sentimental with the picture book "Gus and Me," a tribute to his grandfather, musician Gus Dupree. Neil Young honors a favorite hobby in "Special Deluxe": cars. "Jimmy Page" is a "photographic autobiography" by the Led Zeppelin guitarist. "Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story" is not entirely in his own words, alternating between first-person accounts by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author-journalist Rick Bragg.

Former President George W. Bush already has written a memoir, "Decision Points," so for his new book (currently untitled) he tells the story of his father, George H.W. Bush.

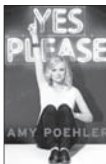
Fiction readers can look forward to books from Stephen King, Janet Evanovich, John Grisham and David



Baldacci, among others. Anne Rice brings back the undead for "Prince Lestat: The Vampire Chronicles," and "Game of Thrones" author George R.R. Martin shares some of the back story in "The World of Ice & Fire: The Untold History of Westeros and the Game of Thrones (A Song of Ice and Fire)."

Some of the top literary writers also have books out. David Mitchell of "Cloud Atlas" fame has written "The Bone Clocks," and fellow British novelist Ian McEwan's latest is "The Children Act." Denis Johnson's "The Laughing Monsters" is the author's first full-length work of fiction since "Tree of Smoke" won the National Book Award in 2008. Marilynne Robinson returns to the Iowa setting of her Pulitzer-Prize-winning "Gilead" with "Lila."

Six years ago, few noticed when Garth Stein had the bright idea to write a novel told from a dog's point of view, "The Art of Racing in the Rain." Thanks to 4 million copies sold, and more than three years on *The New York Times*' best-seller list, Stein should have plenty of attention for "A Sudden Light," which features a boy and a mansion.



"It's what every writer dreams of, to be talked about as much as I was for 'Racing in the Rain,'" Stein says. "But I'm a writer, and a writer's got to write, and I finally had to announce my retirement from 'Racing in the Rain.' As I said to my publisher, 'I have to go in the cave. Don't come in here. I'll come out of the cave when it's time.'"

For some books this fall, the bold-faced name isn't the author.

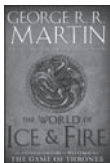
"The Monogram Murders" is a new mystery featuring Agatha Christie detective Hercule Poirot. Christie gets star billing on the cover, but the writer, approved by the Christie estate, is Sophie Hannah. "Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot" offers a new case to solve for baseball-star-turned-police-chief Jesse Stone, the sleuth of nine novels by Parker, who died in 2010. The author this time is Reed Farrel Coleman.

Dick Francis died in 2010, but a new thriller is called "Dick Francis's 'Damage'" in U.S. editions. The author's son, Felix Francis, wrote the novel and prefers the British title: "Damage," with FELIX FRANCIS printed above the title and "A Dick Francis Novel" at the bottom.



"It's a Dick Francis novel in that it's got horses and was written in the first person, and the main character is both courageous and loyal," Felix Francis said.

"I like the idea that I am giving my father immortality, or perhaps I am keeping his name alive. I just hope that if it goes on, it becomes a little bit smaller and mine a little bit bigger."



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“The Fault in Our Stars”: A young couple meet at a cancer support group. A gentle approach when making an emotionally charged movie allows an audience time to connect with the characters and then be moved by events that happen to them. “The Fault in Our Stars” takes a more forceful approach. From start to finish, it’s a production that demands an emotional reaction. An unrelenting assault on the heart creates less of a sense of personal connection and more of a sigh of relief when it’s all over. Shailene Woodley is compelling as she gracefully slides between being afraid to allow anyone into her heart because of such an unpredictable future and giving in to the passions and exhilaration that come with getting so close to Gus.



Warner Bros. Pictures

“Godzilla” is available on DVD.

“Godzilla”: When Godzilla stomped his way through Tokyo in 1954, little attention was paid by director Ishiro Honda to developing the subtleties of the characters or making sure every nuance of the giant lizard’s emerging mythology was handled correctly. The script probably read, “Godzilla smashes everything.” It’s been 60 years, and little has changed; in the end, the film is 123 minutes of Godzilla smashing anything that gets in his way.

“Think Like a Man Too”: All the couples are back for a wedding in Las Vegas. The nearly complete lack of laughs is reason enough to suggest that this production filmed in Las Vegas should have stayed in Las Vegas. What makes this waste of talent so much worse is that it’s a sequel to such an endearing and funny film in the 2012 release “Think Like a Man.” One of the biggest mistakes is that the men and women head in separate directions for bachelor and bachelorette parties. What made the original film so good was watching the interplay of these couples.

“Hannibal: Season 2”: Creepy and well-crafted series that provides more insight into the early days of one of the most terrifying killers in film history, Hannibal Lecter. Mads Mikkelsen turns in a brilliant performance as the central character in the series. The set includes all 13 episodes plus special features that include select episode audio commentaries with the cast and crew, a feature-length documentary on the making of episode 205 plus featurettes on the style of Hannibal Lecter and the prosthetics and effects in the show.

Also available on DVD:

“The Roosevelts: An Intimate History”: Seven-part documentary by Ken Burns that weaves together the stories of the Roosevelts.

“Prisoners of War: Season Two”: Israeli series on which Showtime’s Emmy-award winning “Homeland” is based.

“Hawaii Five-O: The Fourth Season”

“Marvel Knights: Eternals”: A look at the ancient warriors by author Neil Gaiman and artist John Romita Jr.

“Arrow: The Complete Second Season”

“Sleepy Hollow: Season One”: TV series about Ichabod Crane (Tom Mison) awakening in modern times.

“Bones: Season Nine”

“CSI: The Fourteenth Season”

“Father Brown: Season One”: Mark Williams plays a Catholic priest who has a talent for solving crimes.

“Spartacus: The Complete Series”

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CBS

Scott Bakula, left, with CCH Pounder, will appear on “NCIS: New Orleans.” “Look, the ‘NCIS’ franchise is beyond successful,” says the “Quantum Leap” actor. “I’ve never been a part of anything as wildly successful as this show has been. It’s the most-watched show on the planet. I can’t get my head around that.” The show premieres on AFN on Sept. 24.

Familiar face Scott Bakula starring on franchise spinoff ‘NCIS: New Orleans’

BY SCOTT COLLINS/Los Angeles Times

One of the most recognizable faces on TV, Scott Bakula has played prominent roles on shows such as “Quantum Leap,” “Star Trek: Enterprise,” “Chuck,” “Men of a Certain Age,”

“Behind the Candelabra” and “Looking.”

Now the 59-year-old actor is back playing Dwayne Pride in “NCIS: New Orleans,” CBS’ latest spinoff in its smash crime franchise. He spoke by phone from the set in New Orleans.

Many fans still remember you for “Quantum Leap,” the early 1990s show about a physicist who time travels. At the end of every episode, you’d land inside the next adventure, glance around and mutter, “Oh, boy.”

That was in the first script. That was part of the convention that Don (Belisario, the creator) came up with, which was genius, with the “leap in” and the “leap out.” That was the hook to bring people in next week. I never said it the same way twice. I know I had one “Oy vey.”

Then you stepped into another cult franchise, playing Capt. Archer in “Star Trek: Enterprise.” How on earth did you please all those tough sci-fi fanboys and panglers?

These sci-fi fans are phenomenal in the standards that they hold you to. But I came into “Enterprise” with some notoriety in the sci-fi world, so people that never watched “Star Trek,” when I got “Enterprise,” all of a sudden they jumped on the “Star Trek” bandwagon. It’s been a good marriage.

Now you’re in the latest version of the “NCIS” franchise, this one set in New Orleans. Will this be the same “NCIS” fans know and love? (The show premieres Sept. 24 on AFN.)

I’m trying to say to people that it’s

going to be the same but different. Look, the “NCIS” franchise is beyond successful. I’ve never been a part of anything as wildly successful as this show has been. It’s the most-watched show on the planet. I can’t get my head around that.

Your character is based on D’Wayne Swear, who really did run the NCIS unit in New Orleans and now serves as a technical adviser on the show. What’s he like?

The real D’Wayne is a lot like this guy that I’m playing. He’s hugely passionate. He absolutely loves his job. I met him on the phone. I was getting background. He said, “I’m at your disposal. You can call me any time you want. Well, no, don’t call me on Thursday, because I’m helping out on a case that’s out in such and such a parish.” I’m like, “Wait a minute, I thought you were retired?” He said, “Well semi-retired. Now it’s a pretty big case, and so they asked me to come in.” He loves his work. He has his own way of doing it. He’s a little bit of, I think, “rebel” might be too strong of a word, but he gets the job done. He’s not always super-worried about what the correct procedure is or the rules are. He knows everybody in town. He knows all the police in each parish that we go to.

You’re already correcting people’s pronunciation of “New Orleans.” It’s

not “Nawlins,” right?

The locals, they cringe at that. And they cringe at New Or-LEANS. It’s “New Or-lins.”

You’re not a Louisiana native, so how did you work on the accent?

Well, I work with a dialect coach whom I’ve worked with for probably over 20 years, Jessica Drake. She’s pretty famous in the business. We’ve done New York cops, we’ve done Appalachia. I’ve always loved dialects. I did it many times in the theater.

You started shooting in the middle of summer, when the Louisiana heat and humidity were at their peak. How are you dealing?

It’s difficult. It has been difficult on the crew. We’ve had people with heatstroke; we’ve had many different challenging situations already. You just melt. I mean, it’s not pretty. You’re chasing somebody, and when it’s over you’re completely saturated. I grew up in St. Louis, and I don’t know if you’ve ever been to St. Louis in the middle of summer. There are days in the summer sometimes, weeks in the summer, where the temperature can be over 100 degrees and the humidity can be 100 percent. I’m not a stranger to this. But I haven’t lived in it for as long as this amount of time for a very long time.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Roll out aches and pains, tight muscles

Inexpensive foam rollers let you give yourself a deep-tissue massage

By MARY MACVEAN
Los Angeles Times

Maybe your shoulders are achy from time spent bent over a computer keyboard. Perhaps your running has tightened your quads and calves to the point of cramping.

Whatever the cause, foam rollers are an inexpensive and growing answer to tight muscles, soft tissue pain, knots and other problems connected to the fascial system, the web of soft, connective tissue in the body. Rollers stretch and massage the areas — and that helps athletic performance, says trainer Ashley Borden.

Borden and other trainers and teachers are using them in classes of all kinds, and gyms are stocking them.

“Rolling out opens you up, it’s your own deep tissue massage,” Borden says. “Which of us can afford a masseuse every morning before we work out?”

Borden met us at the bustling Fitness Factory L.A. in West Hollywood to show how rolling works. It’s a tool, she says, “to troubleshoot your own body” and it can help with mobility, balance, alignment and relief from aches and pains.

But don’t mistake it for a relaxing spa massage. Rolling out can range from comfortable to downright painful — not unlike the discomfort from a really strong stretch. But you should feel relief afterward.

Her own experience made



PHOTOS BY CHERYL A. GUERRERO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Trainer Ashley Borden demonstrates how to use a foam roller on different parts of the body. Foam rollers can help improve mobility and balance and ease aches and pain associated with tight muscles.



Borden a fan of rollers. “I was a dancer, and I thought I had great posture,” she said, adding that in training, she learned otherwise. So she began using rollers to adjust her alignment. “I saw how my body changed, and it felt better.”

The idea is to target various places from head to toe where there are tight muscles or knots by getting into specific positions and rolling over the target area, generally 10 times, to ease the problem. Avoid rolling directly on bones or joints, Borden says.

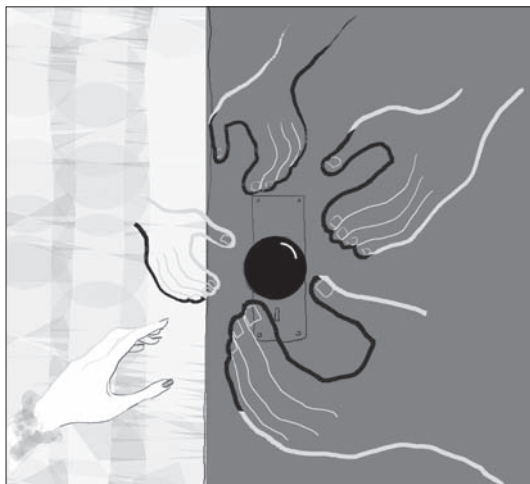
She suggests trying the stretches before a workout or in the evening while watching TV. “I spend a lot of quality time with my roller,” she joked.

Anyone feeling uncertain can consult a doctor or fitness professional, Borden said.

Rollers come in various levels of firmness. The softest roller is for people who are fragile for any reason. Borden uses PVC pipe, which has no give at all. She suggests it for those who like a tough workout. Some rollers have a soft outer grid. Most of them are compressed beads and keep their shape for a long time. There are even very short ones that fit in a carry-on suitcase.

Many brands are available online and in sports stores, and range from around \$15 to \$65. Lacrosse and other balls also can be used in a similar way to get at specific sore spots.

Borden has a downloadable guide to rolling out, available for free on her website, ashleyborden.com.



The Seattle Times illustration

A new study has found that one doorknob can contaminate up to 60 percent of the people in a building in a few hours.

A germey doorknob can infect half of the people in an office within hours

By ABBY PHILLIP
The Washington Post

Viruses can spread from a single doorknob to 40 to 60 percent of surfaces and people in a building in just a few hours, according to a new study.

Researchers put a tracer virus on one or two surfaces in a building (for example a doorknob or push plate) at the beginning of the day. And after two to four hours, the virus could be detected on a majority of commonly touched surfaces such as light switches, coffee pot handles, phones and computers.

“We actually put a virus on a push plate in an office building of 80 people, had three entrances, and within four hours it ended up on over half the people’s hands, and it ended up on over half the surfaces that people touched in that building,” said University of Arizona researcher Charles Gerba, who presented the study at the 54th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy on Sept. 8.

“What we really learned was the hand is quicker than the sneeze in the spread of disease,” Gerba said during his presentation.

The alarming speed in which the virus goes from a surface to the hands of anyone

— workers and visitors in office buildings, schools, hotels and hospitals — serves as an important reminder to wash hands and disinfect surfaces frequently.

Viruses such as diarrhea, the flu and the common cold can cause illness when people have the viruses on their hands and then touch their faces, which they do about once every three to four minutes, according to Gerba.

Gerba said that hand-washing, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer use was found to significantly reduce the spread of a virus.

“Using disinfecting wipes containing quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATS) registered by EPA as effective against viruses like norovirus and flu, along with hand hygiene, reduced virus spread by 80 to 99 percent,” he said.

Touch was found to spread the virus in places where people might least expect it. It wasn’t the bathroom, but the break room, that was a “hot spot” for virus spread.

“What’s the first thing you do when you go to work? You get a cup of coffee. You want to be the first one in that coffee break room,” Gerba said. “Every time you touch these surfaces you’re picking up between 30 and 50 percent of the organisms [that] are on that surface.”

WEEKEND: FAMILY

Avoid explosive situations

BabyBackups help prevent diaper spillage

By ANYA SOSTEK
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It's one of those messy truths about parenthood: What happens in a diaper doesn't always stay in a diaper.

The "diaper blowout" — in which baby poop exits the body with such force that it expels itself onto the child's back and clothing — is a problem that most parents prefer to forget.

Not so for Megan and Steve DeFrancesco of suburban Franklin

Park, Pa., who believe they've invented a solution in the form of a product they call "BabyBackups." The couple started selling them earlier this year on websites like Amazon and Zulily, and the product was recently mentioned in Real Simple

magazine as one of the "Top 8 Problem-Solving Products for Parents." BabyBackups are a "diaper extender pad" that presses into the back of a diaper, stopping poop from exiting the diaper, sold in boxes of 25 for \$9.95.

The DeFrancescos' story actually started long ago, with the case of Megan's younger brother, who created family lore with a particularly bad blowout during his christening ceremony. With that frame of reference — and with her son, Coby, producing messy diapers "always at the most horrible times," Megan was nervous when the time came for his baptism.

She crafted a homemade solution, cutting up maxi pads and sticking them to the back of his diaper. Thankfully, he didn't test the system — staying spotless during his baptism — but she thought she might be onto something.

Her daughter, Siena, born less than 16 months after Coby and with an even messier propensity toward blowouts, gave the mom the perfect opportunity to refine her testing. "She would go through so many outfits a day," she said. "I was so sick of the laundry."

Megan, 34, continued her cutting and pasting, giving Siena "backup" during important events. And during her baptism, the pads passed the test. "She pooped twice in church,



PHOTOS BY JOHN HELLER, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/MCT

BabyBackups, a product created by Steve and Megan DeFrancesco, are hypoallergenic, absorbent wedge-shaped pads that easily attach to any diaper brand, putting a stop to spillage.



and it stopped it," she said. "It would have been a horrible disaster."

Convinced of the merits — and marketability — of Megan's home-crafted solution, her husband, Steve, spent six months in between jobs working full time to turn the idea into a reality. A Penn State University-trained electrical engineer with previous work experience in IT, Steve, 40, started working with a patent attorney and making inquiries with manufacturers.

Unable to find a U.S. factory to make the product, he located a manufacturer in China. Just over a year after they started working on the business, they started selling the product in February.

They are currently selling about 50 boxes a month, said Steve, and

he believes that while most of their customers are buying them just to use for special occasions, or as shower gifts, some are using them every day.

He has heard feedback from customers who say they "would spend anything not to have to clean that up again."

And he and his wife will soon have the opportunity to use the product again themselves: they are expecting another baby in October.

As for the business, Steve laughs about the reaction that the couple sometimes get, but he does believe that they're filling a need.

"If they don't have kids, they look at you a little strangely," he said. "If they do have kids, they'll get it immediately."

SPOUSE CALLS

New book helps military spouses manage stress

Judy Davis is excited about the release of her first book, "Right Side Up: Finding Your Way When Military Life Turns You Upside Down," but writing a guide for military spouses was not on her radar until recently.

Army life took her by surprise six years ago when her husband of 17 years rejoined the military life he had left before their marriage. Entering military life in mid-stride with two teenagers was a challenge, said Davis, for her and the whole family.

In civilian life, Davis had her own marketing business and was a motivational speaker with a passion for helping small businesses. Her experiences in the Army and a series of crises changed the way she uses those talents.

The first came two years into her military adventure, and only a few days after her husband returned from his first deployment. Davis said she realized she had to make a change when she was hospitalized with heart issues.

"It was because of my inability to deal with stress and chaos during the deployment," she said. "It was a wake-up call that said, 'You better figure out how to live this life and get through the day to day, and also embrace it as an opportunity. Otherwise, it's literally going to kill you.'"

Sitting in her hospital bed, Davis said she realized the coping skills she'd used to manage civilian life were not working for her military life.

"I don't think we are naturally equipped to deal with the challenges that we face as military spouses," she said. "It's a skill set that we need to learn." So she decided to equip herself and others.

The next crisis came a couple of years later when her then college-aged son was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress, depression and other issues. Davis and her husband learned their son had been internalizing the pressures of military life.

"We didn't know it, but our son was under so much stress, thinking it was his job to take care of me while his father was gone or if something happened to him," Davis said. "Never once did we put on him that it was his responsibility to take care of me," she said, but he felt it just the same.

In these difficult times, Davis turned to her journal.

"Understanding that I had to redefine my thoughts about being a parent and a military spouse, I began to write," she said. "The process of journaling was my personal tool for dealing with situations."

After defining the stressors in her life, she began to formulate and write down strategies for overcoming stress and managing the flux inherent in military life.

"I just started coming up with exercises and writing down the things that I did that were helpful," Davis said. She knew she wanted to use her experiences to help other military spouses, and when the opportunity came to put it into a book, she took it.

She had already directed her speaking business toward military spouses, leading workshops and blogging on her website as "The Direction Diva."

Her son, now an adult, follows in his mother's footsteps by speaking out about his own challenges. Together, mother and son created Living Thru Crisis, a source of information for families struggling with behavioral or mental health issues.

"We are not doctors," she said, "but we lived it and we lived through it. We're growing and learning as we go, and we can share hope."

"Right Side Up" is an outgrowth of all of these efforts. Davis said the book is a guide to help military spouses develop life skills to meet their own personal challenges, whatever they might be. She said that means a solid foundation, and way to cope with changes when they happen, because they will.

"The book isn't meant to be one size fits all; it's what size fits you in a given situation and in that moment," she said. "Discovering what that is for you is part of the process."

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

CELEBRITY SPOONERISMS

BY TONY ORBACH AND PATRICK BLINDAUR / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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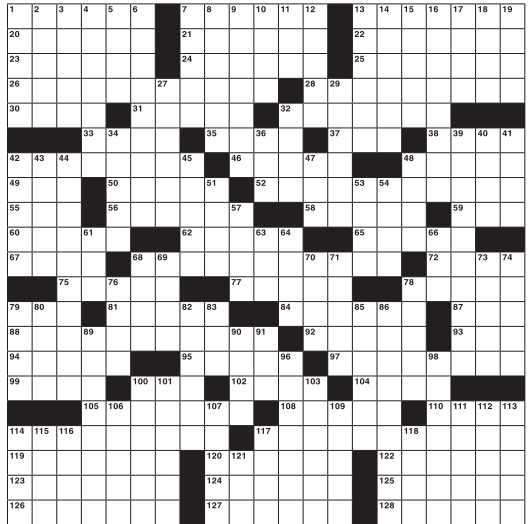
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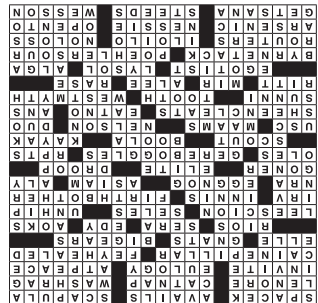
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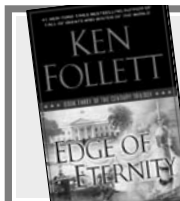
GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE





Ken Follett's Century Trilogy follows the fortunes of five intertwined families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—as they make their way through the twentieth century. Edge of Eternity, the finale, covers one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the 1960s through the 1980s.

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FACES

LOOK BACK

Ben McKenzie
primed
to lead Batman
prequel
'Gotham'



FOX photos

Ben McKenzie, left, and Donal Logue star in the TV series "Gotham." It premieres on AFN-Spectrum on Sept. 28. The series is set after the murders of the parents of Bruce Wayne (David Mazouz, below right, with McKenzie) — who goes on to become Batman — and focuses on a young police detective, James Gordon, played by McKenzie.

BY ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

Ben McKenzie expects viewers to tune into the premiere episode of Fox's Batman prequel series, "Gotham," on Monday. (The show premieres on AFN-Spectrum on Sept. 28.)

The series has the name recognition, history and premise to pique curiosity, and "if that gets people to watch, I'll take it," the 36-year-old actor said in a recent interview.

The challenge is to get viewers to tune in week after week, because there will be no caped crusader fighting injustice. Instead, "Gotham" focuses on McKenzie's young police detective James Gordon as he tries to keep his moral compass in a corrupt city.

McKenzie said there's a story worth telling.

"You don't know ... what happened before Bruce (Wayne) became Batman. You don't know how all of these villains became who they became. You don't know how all the people who were going to become villains who just got killed,

who didn't make it. You don't know how Jim navigated the terrain to get to where he ends up as commissioner," he said. "I think that's fascinating."

McKenzie's breakout came in 2003 on Fox's "The O.C." He played Ryan Atwood, a teen from the wrong side of the tracks with good intentions invited to live with a wealthy family in California. He then played a police officer for five seasons on TNT's gritty ensemble series "Southland." His character was a wide-eyed rookie who became more cynical and jaded.

With "Gotham," McKenzie is the lead — and it's a position that he's comfortable with. "I've been on two television shows that have both lasted for a while, so I have some idea how TV works," he said. "I want ... to have a show where people enjoy coming to work ... where people aren't competing with each other."

He wants to keep morale high, recently organizing a cast potluck on the roof of his New York apartment building. His contribution? A Texas-style brisket. "No big deal, whatever. I'm a great cook," he joked.

Co-star Donal Logue, who plays his partner, Harvey Bullock, says those efforts are working.

"He's such a good guy. He's so patient. He works so hard. Ben's the lead. On a show like this, you need a good captain. He's our captain, and he keeps everybody working and morale high."

McKenzie hopes viewers will share his perspective.

"If you are really a big (Batman) fan, wouldn't you love to see how it all came to be? How Bruce (Wayne) becomes Batman? The only way that Jim as commissioner is actually going to embrace this crazy notion of Bruce as Batman is through twists and turns that you're going to see."



Jason Isbell cleans up at Americana Awards

Singer-songwriter Jason Isbell swept the major awards Wednesday night at the Americana Honors & Awards, creating another special moment with his wife, Amanda Shires.

Isbell won artist, album and song of the year during the 13th annual awards show at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. Though surprisingly ignored by Grammy Awards voters, Isbell's album of the year winner "Southeastern" reverberated through the Americana community and made many of 2013's best-of lists.

He performed song of the year "Cover Me Up" with Shires, a significant figure on the album as muse and collaborator.

"I wrote this song for my wife," Isbell said. "I've had a lot of people ask me to dedicate it to their wives, girlfriends or cousin's wife or something strange like that. This was probably the hardest song I ever had to write because I wrote it for her and then I played it for her. It was very difficult. Do the things that scare you. That's the good stuff."

Isbell was one of this year's top nominees along with Kosanne Cash and Robert Ellis. Each had three nominations and all were up for artist, album and song of the year.

Sturgill Simpson earned emerging artist of the year and the Milk Carton Kids took group/duo of the year. Buddy Miller, now executive music producer for the television show "Nashville" and the Americana's winningest performer, won his fifth instrumentalist of the year award.

The Americana Music Association also honored several pioneering musicians. Loretta Lynn received the lifetime achievement award for songwriting.



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Jason Isbell performs during the Americana Music Honors and Awards in Nashville on Wednesday.

Other news

■ Prince William will replace his wife on this weekend's official visit to Malta because the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge is still suffering from acute morning sickness. Palace officials said Thursday the decision to cancel what would have been Kate's first official solo voyage overseas was made in consultation with doctors.

■ "Saturday Night Live" announced Thursday that Darrell Hammond, who spent 14 years on "SNL," will replace longtime announcer Don Pardo, who died Aug. 18, for the Sept. 27 season opener.

From The Associated Press

“ You don't know ... what happened before Bruce (Wayne) became Batman. ... You don't know how Jim navigated the terrain to get to where he ends up as commissioner. I think that's fascinating. ”

Zachary Quinto rules out role in 'Heroes Reborn'

The Associated Press

Zachary Quinto got his big acting break on the TV series "Heroes," but he's ruling out any role in the "Heroes Reborn" miniseries due to air on the network next year.

The 37-year-old actor, who's best known for his role as Spock on the 2009 J.J. Abrams "Star Trek" reboot, says timing is part of the problem, but that he also felt

that it wasn't right for him creatively, because he's "really interested in cultivating other experiences" for himself.

"I'm not going to do it," he says.

Instead, he's turning his attention to mentoring two first-time filmmakers on the unsolicited series "The Chair," which airs on the Starz network in the series, from "Project Greenlight" creator Chris Moore, the filmmakers adapt their own

movie from the same original screenplay. Viewers vote on which film they prefer, with \$250,000 going to the winner.

There's also his production company, which executive produced "The Chair," the Oscar-nominated Robert Redford film "All Is Lost" and the upcoming NBC miniseries "The Slap," in which Quinto also is one of the three co-stars.



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Ernie Gates

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

For-profit schools slighted

Tom Philpott's Sept. 5 Military Update column ("Understanding GI Bill in-state tuition ceiling") provides inaccurate information on veteran education benefits related to the Post-9/11 GI Bill and mischaracterizes private-sector colleges and universities.

Contrary to the column's suggestion, the Yellow Ribbon Program is open to all degree-granting institutions approved for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Public institutions are fully eligible to participate in the program, but many have elected to participate at low levels or not at all. The lack of Yellow Ribbon participation on the part of public institutions is precisely what led to veteran advocates to push for in-state tuition in support of transitioning servicemembers and veterans.

The column's focus on private-sector in-

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stitutions takes readers on an exploration of topics completely unrelated to the story at hand. The in-state tuition issue only applies to public institutions. The notion that private-sector institutions are somehow linked to the in-state tuition issue is a red herring that led the columnist to miss basic

facts.

Today's veterans elect to attend private-sector institutions because they provide accelerated, career-oriented programs and many participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program at a level that allows veterans to maximize their Post-9/11 GI Bill. Unfortunately, the opposite is true as some public institutions that simply look at veterans as additional revenue and prefer to see them pay the out-of-state tuition rate over the in-state tuition rate.

Veterans served the entire nation, not just one state. They have earned in-state tuition.

Michael Dakduk
vice president of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Association of Private Sector Colleges
and Universities
Washington

In any era, football unsafe at any level

By JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN

In 1893, Theodore Roosevelt published an article in defense of college football. As player injuries mounted, some critics had called for a ban on the game. Nonsense, the future president wrote. "It is mere unmanly folly to try to do away with the sport because the risk exists." Instead, he argued, reform football to "minimize" its dangers.

"Sound familiar? As millions of American boys and young men take to our football fields this fall, there's lots of talk about making the game safer. We've seen new rules on tackling, stronger penalties for infractions and time limits on practices.

But it's unlikely that these changes will significantly reduce injuries. For the last century, schools and colleges have tried to modify the game so fewer people get hurt. And it hasn't worked.

The first changes took place in the early 1900s. Before that time the game resembled rugby, with players piling on top of one another to control the ball. They could pass it sideways or backward but not forward.

The results were predictable: smashed noses, dislocated shoulders, broken necks and fractured skulls. Dozens of young men died, mostly from cerebral hemorrhage. "The sight of a confused mass of educated young men making batter-rams of their bodies, plunging their heads into each other's stomachs, piling upon each other or maiming each other for life — sometimes indeed — killing each other ... is to me a brutal monstrosity," declared Cornell President Andrew D. White in 1891.

Fourteen years later, having ascended to the White House, Roosevelt convened a meeting of coaches from Harvard, Yale and Princeton. Amid newspaper reports of 18 football deaths that fall, the 1905 meeting set in motion a series of reforms to protect players from injury — and to guard the sport from critics who wanted to end it altogether.

The most controversial innovation was the forward pass, which would spread players more widely and decrease the amount of contact between them. But the leading opponent of the reform, Yale coach Walter Camp, warned that players streaking downfield would be even greater danger than the ones clumped together near the line of scrimmage. Camp turned out to be correct.

The recent increase of concussions — at every level of the sport — is partly due to "pass-first" offenses, which have led to more high-speed collisions. By stopping the game clock for incompletion, passing has also increased the total number of plays and, with it, the opportunities for injury.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker has had three concussions in a 10-month span. After Welker's latest head injury, some fans and pundits suggested he should walk away from the game for his own good. "I appreciate their concern, I really do," Welker said. "But at the same time, I feel great. I feel sharp and I feel ready to go."

Ditto for helmets, another reform designed to reduce harm on the field. In the early years of the game, some players grew their hair long to provide a modicum of head protection. Others began to wear leather helmets, which were developed by an Annapolis, Md., shoemaker to protect a Navy midshipman after the player's doctor told him that he might die from another hit to his head.

Enter the plastic helmet, which provided more cushioning. But it also became a weapon in its own right, allowing players to "lead with their helmets" as they tackled. Despite new restrictions on that practice, helmet-to-helmet hits remain one of the key causes of concussions and other injuries.

And the most common victims are kids, who are starting football at ever-younger ages. Their necks aren't fully developed, so they can't brace for a hit the way adults can. And their braincases haven't finished hardening, which makes their skulls more vulnerable to impact.

By the time they get to high school, kids have a 5 percent chance of sustaining a concussion for each season they play. And as a 2011 study showed, former football players who sustained two or more concussions in their youth have a significantly higher rate of cognitive impairment as adults.

The issue made its way back to the White House in May, when President Barack

Obama convened a meeting of coaches, doctors and scientists to discuss sports-related concussions. But the most powerful voice in the room was one that didn't exist back in Roosevelt's time: the National Football League.

A judge recently approved a settlement to compensate retired NFL players suffering the effects of head injuries that is likely to cost the league several hundred million dollars. It also announced this year that it would donate \$45 million to the youth organization it founded, USA Football, in part to expand safety training for coaches.

As the richest sports enterprise in America, the NFL can absorb almost any legal hit that comes its way. But our high schools can't. And the league needs them to continue sponsoring football teams, which — alongside college squads — are the main training system for the pros.

If he had a son, the president said last year, he'd "have to think long and hard" before letting him play football. But the rest of us need to think long and hard too about why we're putting so many kids at risk to subsidize a league that's already awash in money. And if we think we can wash away the risk, we're kidding ourselves.

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches history and education at New York University. He is the author of "Too Hot to Handle: A Global History of Sex Education," which will be published in 2015. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Vital to keep Ebola contained
Decatur (Ala.) Daily

The Ebola virus is one of the least understood but most deadly viruses on the African continent, spreading rapidly if not checked in its early stages. The current outbreak threatens to become a continental pandemic.

Initially, health officials thought the outbreak was contained along the Liberia-Guinea border, but with people traveling to escape it or to conduct business, the virus has spread to other regions. Now, African nations are asking for greater assistance from the West.

The United States and United Kingdom are ramping up assistance in the form of medical equipment and military aid, including setting up clinics. The Obama administration is preparing to assign 3,000 U.S. military personnel to the afflicted region to supply medical and logistical support to overwhelmed local health care systems and to boost the number of beds needed to isolate and treat victims of the epidemic.

The virus' exact origins remain a mystery, but scientists believe Ebola is transmitted from certain animals, including bats. It is spread among humans by contact with bodily fluids, either through broken skin or mucous membranes. ...

As is often the case in remote areas, Doctors Without Borders has been on the front line trying to contain the outbreak, but the humanitarian aid group has been accused of spreading the virus. ... The outbreak had been contained early, but the movement of people in the region allowed it to spread. Many African nations have imposed travel restrictions and quarantines in an effort to control it. Part of the U.S. and British military assistance will be in containing movement of people. ...

A more coordinated and well-funded response to easily spread diseases is becoming mandatory. The risks of piecemeal responses are too dangerous to consider.

Higher standard for athletes?
(McComb, Miss.)
Enterprise-Journal

Domestic violence is a terrible thing, and the current brouhaha over National Football League players accused of it is putting a lot of public attention on a crime that too often has been tolerated by both victims and prosecutors.

If the publicity over the cases of Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson, Greg Hardy and others sends a message that domestic violence comes with a big price to those who dish it out, then some good will come from this. Give professional sports some credit. Whatever the negative aspects there are to big-money games, sports has helped pioneer positive changes in society, not the least of which is general acceptance of racial integration.

But a question that seems fair to raise is: Are millionaire football players — and their bosses — being held to a higher standard when it comes to striking a woman or whipping a child than the average person?

It's pretty obvious that they are. Perhaps a better question is: Should they be?

No unity at this Block party
The Wall Street Journal

A unanimous Supreme Court this year rejected President Barack Obama's three nonrecuse appointments to the National Labor Relations Board as an abuse



of executive authority, but hey, no worries. One of those illegal appointees is now getting her second chance to be confirmed by the Senate.

In January 2012 Obama "recess" appointed Sharon Block, a then-deputy assistant secretary at the Labor Department and former aide to the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, to the NLRB along with labor stalwart Richard Griffin and Terence Flynn. Griffin and Block left the NLRB in 2013 as part of a Senate deal to avert a showdown over the filibuster.

Republicans agreed to confirm Obama's nomination on condition they not include Block and Griffin. A few days later Democrats turned around and promoted Griffin to be NLRB general counsel. Now the filibuster is gone and Obama has renominated Block to the board in clear violation of the spirit of the 2012 bipartisan deal.

At a recent Senate hearing Block was asked why she remained on the board after a federal appeals court invalidated the recess appointments as unconstitutional. "I made a commitment to serve, and I took that commitment very seriously," Block told the committee. Block's oath of office begins with a pledge to uphold and defend the Constitution, but we digress.

All of this matters because Block's reappointment means the reconstituted NLRB will be able to rubber stamp many rulings first issued when the board was acting without a legal quorum. Hundreds of rulings from that era were invalidated when the Supreme Court judged the appointments unconstitutional in *NLRB v. Noel Canning*. Reasonable people will wonder how they can expect a fair rehearing before a board member who already ruled against them.

At the recent hearing Block said she would consider requests that she recuse herself from individual cases, but we won't be betting on it. During her time on the board Block has amassed a briefcase of decisions in favor of expanding the NLRB's authority to assist labor unions. ...

Now she will be back, rewarmed with the parties' Senate vote, but still guaranteed to vote for her interests regardless of the facts or legal precedent.

Strikes warranted, but no cure
The Seattle Times

The United States should recognize the limited scope of what it can achieve as it returns military advisers to Iraq and plots strategic airstrikes in Syria to curb the growing terrorism threat in the two volatile nations.

No matter how many smart bombs are dropped or megalomaniacal leaders are killed, the twisted ideology that birthed Islamic State — the terrorist group previously known as al-Qaida in Iraq — won't be totally eradicated. Its physical complicity, however, can be severely maimed.

President Barack Obama recently outlined his measured military strategy to ac-

complish that goal by putting a muted U.S. military advisory presence on the ground, and by aiding the moderate forces opposing the militant Islamic group.

This show of detached U.S. "strength and resolve," bolstered by United Nations partnerships, will check the Islamic State's ability to threaten the United States and its allies, Obama argues.

Clearly, the U.S. must do more to cripple a group so bloodthirsty that it has brazenly beheaded two American journalists in recent weeks and posted videos of that barbarism online. But the additional effort should involve new tactics because the old and often-used military-intervention tool has routinely exacerbated problems in the Middle East instead of resolved them.

"All you can do in these situations is learn from history," said U.S. Rep. Adam Smith of Bellevue, Wash., the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. "A full-scale U.S. military presence is not going to be the answer."

Ravaging terrorists who justify their cowardice by provoking the very reprisals they decry only continues the cycle of compounded intervention Obama has tried to avoid. ...

[M]embers of Congress have signaled a willingness to give the president the support he needs. That's the proper course. But Obama and Congress should be explicit in redefining what victory means and the metrics to get there. That will help reassure the war-weary American people. Still, military intervention has never changed the hearts, minds or politics of the Middle East. So, the president who campaigned as an anti-war U.S. senator is forced to choose from an assortment of bad options. In such cases, lowering expectations makes a lot of sense.

Families still hurting financially
The New York Times

The economy has been on the road to recovery since 2009, when the Great Recession officially ended. But, for most Americans, recovery is not there yet, and, at the recent rate of progress, it won't be for a long time, if ever.

New census data on income and poverty show that median household income barely budged in 2013 for the second year in a row, following two consecutive annual declines. At nearly \$52,000, it is still 8 percent below its level in 2007 before the recession. To make matters worse, the income declines from the recession came on top of losses carried over from the prior business cycle from 2000 to 2007. In all, median household income in America is 8.6 percent below its peak in 2000.

The situation is even bleaker for households led by people under age 65. Unlike older households, their income is not usually cushioned by steady Social Security payments; instead, they rely largely on paychecks in an era of flat or falling wages. For them, median income from 2000 to

2013 declined 11.2 percent, from nearly \$65,800 to \$58,450.

Even positive news in the report is overwhelmed by dismaying longer-term trends. The poverty rate fell from 15 percent in 2012 to 14.5 percent in 2013, the first meaningful year-to-year decline in seven years. (The poverty threshold for a family of four in 2013 was \$23,834.) But the rate is still well above its levels of 12.5 percent in 2007 and 11.3 in 2000. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has calculated that, at the recent pace of poverty reduction, it would take until 2020 for the rate to fall below the level in 2000.

Similarly, poverty among children fell from 2012 to 2013, but remains above its levels in 2007 and 2000. The improvement, such as it is, appears to stem from a rise in the employment and earnings of low-income parents. That is, of course, a positive sign in any recovery: When jobs begin to grow, low-income groups hit the hardest in the bad times should show clear signs of a rebound.

It also means, however, that further economic progress will depend on even more jobs at even higher pay. But several policymakers in Congress and at the Federal Reserve believe it is time to back off from remaining stimulus policies. ... Progress toward economic health has been and continues to be slow and unreliable. That's because the policy response never was and probably never will be commensurate with the damage caused by the serial recessions and poor recoveries since 2000.

Can't change political climate
The Oklahoman

Matt Ridley calls himself a "lukewarmer," a person who's somewhere in between when it comes to positions on global warming. Apparently, the number of such folks in high government positions is not going to change — unlike the temperatures themselves.

As the United Nations climate change summit this month will have some empty seats. They would otherwise be occupied by officials from China, India and Germany, among others, who've decided that global warming isn't quite as urgent as the U.N. and President Barack Obama think it is.

Ridley noted in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed that the U.N. "no longer claims that there will be dangerous or rapid climate change in the next two decades." Really? Tell that to the Los Angeles Times, which no longer accepts letters to the editor disputing "scientific wisdom on anthropogenic global warming."

Scattered news reports in recent days have chronicled a change in summertime Arctic ice loss. This is a normal phenomenon that happens every year but had been happening more dramatically until it wasn't. This year, Arctic ice loss in August was well normal.

Global warming zealots are scrambling to cover their igloos in these challenging times for "settled science." The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has been downgrading its forecasts for global warming, but not much, saying for the period of 1995-2025, from 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit to about 0.9 degrees.

"Even that is likely to be too high," wrote Ridley, who is a member of the British House of Lords. "The climate-research establishment has finally admitted openly what it has been saying for years: It's tempting to demonize Republicans about their obvious concern for the plight of the polar bears."

The "settled science" coalition, including the White House and many members of Congress, haven't gotten the memo. They want to keep demonizing anything tempting to demonize Republicans about their obvious concern for the plight of the polar bears.

As they have throughout natural history, weather events come and go, strutting and fretting their hour upon the world stage but leaving no permanent sign of anything that can be scientifically settled.

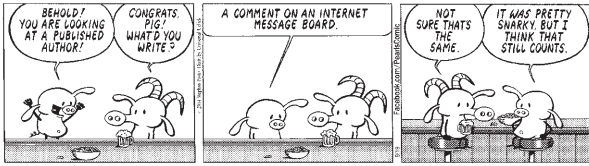
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



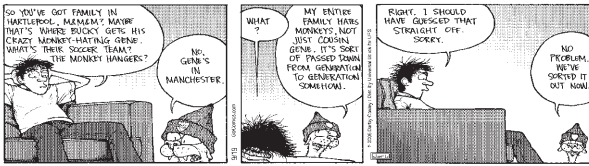
Non Sequitur



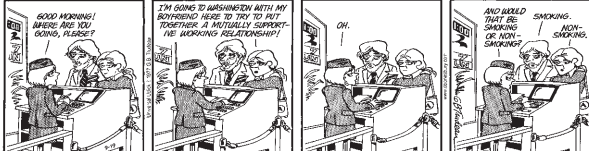
Candorville



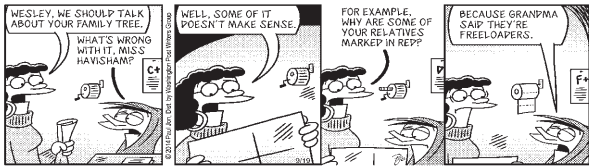
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



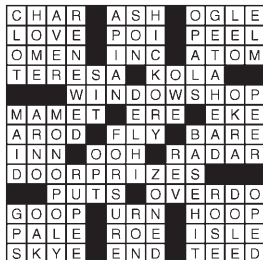
ACROSS

- Pompous one
- mater
- Microwaves
- Play: —
- Ring out
- Hebrew month
- Comfy footwear
- Vatican VIP
- 11th president
- Winning
- Buxom
- Frilly, maybe
- 39-Down speaker
- Change for the worse, e.g.
- Goof up
- Brilliantly colored
- Dead heat
- In the cards
- "The Da Vinci —"
- Advantage
- Document
- Zoo howler
- Moist
- Deserve
- Strong-jawed turtles
- Differently
- Caffeine nut
- Scoundrel
- Antelope's playmate
- Midmonth date
- Agent

DOWN

- Billboards
- Scale member
- FedEx clientele
- Cider provider
- Welsh emblem
- Ruin the veneer
- Hirt and Gore
- Gentle breeze
- Burn aid
- Former larva
- Coaster
- Survey
- Scored 100 on
- On in years
- Stallion's mate
- Embankment
- Eager, plus
- Circle
- Corks
- Staffer
- Villainous look
- "Livin' La — Loca"
- Sawbuck
- Bivouac
- Half a 1960s quartet
- Pay attention
- Eli's alma mater
- Celtic tongue
- Secluded valley
- Tackle moguls
- Affirmative action?
- Knock
- Unkempt dwelling

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-19

CRYPTOQUIP

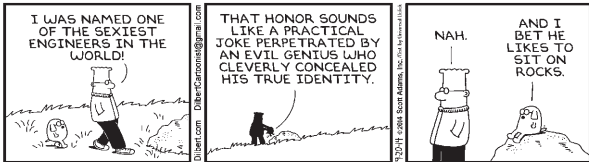
WSHN GFPKYAM WSYW PYTCN
VFFECA ICAGC KHCBCN HN
EFHAJ VCZZ IHAYAGHYZZM.

H'E ZHTC Y NWYTC HA HW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING TO INSTALL SO MANY AIR DUCTS HAS CAUSED HIM TO GET ANGRY. HE REALLY NEEDS TO VENT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

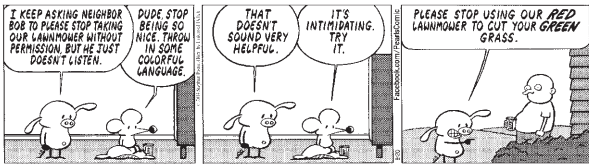
Frazz



Dilbert



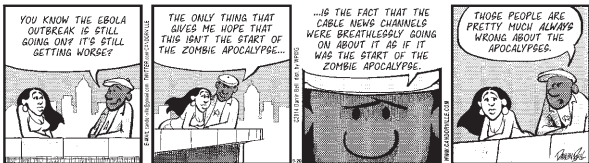
Pearls Before Swine



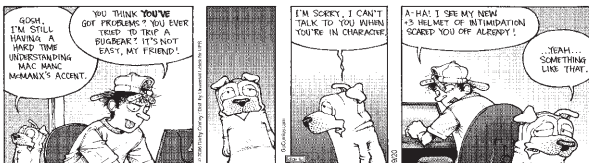
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
18					19				20	
			21	22		23	24			
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32							33			
34					35		36			
			37				38			
39	40	41		42	43			44	45	46
48					49				50	
51					52				53	
54					55				56	

ACROSS

- 1 Limerick or haiku
- 5 Constrict
- 9 Toss in
- 12 Busy with
- 13 Addict
- 14 Witness
- 15 Mythical man-goat
- 16 Do in
- 17 Right angle
- 18 Move like a butterfly
- 19 Yon maiden
- 20 Armor of a sort
- 21 Leading lady?
- 23 Greet the villain
- 25 Get all whiny
- 28 Northerner
- 32 Spiral

DOWN

- 1 Automaton, briefly
- 5 Elevator name
- 7 Foot part
- 9 Toss in
- 12 Busy with
- 13 Addict
- 14 Witness
- 15 Mythical man-goat
- 16 Do in
- 17 Right angle
- 18 Move like a butterfly
- 19 Yon maiden
- 20 Armor of a sort
- 21 Leading lady?
- 23 Greet the villain
- 25 Get all whiny
- 28 Northerner
- 32 Spiral

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	S		A	L	M	A		Z	A	P	S
D	O	H		P	E	A	L		E	L	U	L
S	L	I	P	P	E	R	S		P	O	P	E
			P	O	L	K			A	H	E	A
A	M	P	L	E		L	A	C				
G	A	E	L		R	E	V	E	R	S	A	L
E	R		R		V	I	V	I	D		T	I
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E	L	S	E		K	O	L	A		R	A	T
D	E	E	R		I	D	E	S		S	P	Y

9-20

CRYPTOQUIP

YURTTCYRU ERZDUJ TRXRXSJ
MK R HMOOJTT KJRXSZCWH
TMEJ VZMECWJWX DUMMO

GJTTJUT: GJWMST OJ ECUM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS COMPANY THAT MAKES WOODEN FENCE PIECES IS DOING WELL FINANCIALLY. I'D LIKE A STAKE IN IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

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BASKETBALL

US awaits Rio after capturing World title

International failures fading from memory after recent success

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

MADRID — It feels like so long ago, though it's been only a decade.

The U.S. was the three-time defending Olympic champion, but had become a mess of a basketball program. The Americans had embarrassed themselves at home in the 2002 world championship, and when they haphazardly put together their team for the 2004 Olympics, nobody should have been surprised if they lost.

That's exactly what happened. Puerto Rico blew them out 92-73 in their opener.

Now the Americans run perhaps the most stable program in the world, gold medalists at both the men's and women's, senior and junior levels. Yet Mike Krzyzewski will prepare as if their opener in Rio de Janeiro is as uncertain as the one in Athens.

"I think we can lose our next game," Krzyzewski said. "I mean, that's the way we prepare because we know how good everyone is."

The Americans are the best, proving that again with a 129-92 victory over Serbia on Sunday to win the Basketball World Cup.

That gave the U.S. consecutive world titles to go with its back-to-back Olympic gold medals. The Americans have won with powerhouse rosters in the Olympics and beatable ones in the worlds, and they could go to Brazil with their best one yet.

This was supposed to be the summer where the United States' recent dominance could end. Spain had nearly beaten stronger U.S. teams in the last two Olympic gold-



DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/AP

United States players celebrate after winning the Basketball World Cup championship against Serbia in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday.

medal games, and this time would have home-court advantage and a roster of all the players it wanted while the Americans would settle for whoever would come.

Another matchup in the gold-medal game was widely expected until France stunned

the Spaniards in the quarterfinals.

"Spain's a magnificent program, a magnificent team, and it just takes one bad day. One bad day. And so what we're trying to do is make sure we don't have bad days," Krzyzewski said. "And so far it's worked out."

The U.S. always had the best possible talent, even when it was losing six times between 2002 and '04. Now the Americans may also have the best leadership and infrastructure, and it's made the gap with the rest of the world seem larger than ever.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Football

Division II elite maintain status

Big three off to impressive starts

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The DODDS Europe Division II football season is only two weeks old, but it is already dividing itself into two distinct tiers.

The division's presumed elite — Ansbach, Bitburg and reigning champion Hohenfels — have so far done nothing to jeopardize that status.

Ansbach outscored AFNORTH and Naples by a combined 88-14 in its first two wins. Bitburg, while taking its time in putting away Baumholder and AFNORTH, has nonetheless won both of its games by a combined 61 points. The reigning Tigers have taken the field just once, but used the opportunity to thrash Alconbury 52-8.

All three teams are in action this weekend hoping to further reinforce their dominance. The Tigers host 1-1 Aviano, while regional rivals Bitburg and Ansbach collide in one of the most compelling games of the regular season. However the Bitburg-Ansbach game turns out, it's likely both will cruise to the postseason and retain their status as championship threats.

All of which poses the question: aside from each other, is anyone capable of hanging with Division II's big three?

Vicenza would seem to be the field's strongest candidate. The Cougars entered the season with a high profile after a postseason berth in 2013 and a strong showing at the annual August football camp in Ansbach, and their regular season started in promising fashion on Saturday with a 35-0 shutout of rival Aviano.

Meanwhile, dark horse hopefuls SHAPE and Rota are lurking on the fringe of contention.

The Spartans are coming off a season in which they came within a few crucial defensive stops of beating Hohenfels for the European championship. But the offseason decimated their talent base, and a 49-0 drubbing of over-matched Menwith Hill/Woodham isn't enough evidence to counterbalance that fact. Their performance this weekend against Naples, another 2013 playoff qualifier, should be instructive.

The Admirals, meanwhile, are a former Division III power on the verge of finding their way into the Division II mix. They upgraded on last year's winless campaign with a 27-0 win at Baumholder on Saturday and can move to 2-0 with a home-field win over Alconbury. Road games at Bitburg and Ansbach over their last three games will test any momentum the Admirals are able to build, however.

With the structure of the



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Bitburg's Dominick Ferneding (38) throws a pass against Baumholder during the Barons' first home game of the season last Saturday. Bitburg won 32-8 and now faces regional rival Ansbach this weekend.

DODDS Europe postseason still unclear, the mandate is clear for any team hoping to be a part of it: keep winning.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
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Schedule

Football

Friday

Wiesbaden at Kaiserslautern
ISB at Vicenza

Saturday

Lakenheath at Vilsack
Patch at Ramstein
SHAPE at Naples
Alconbury at Rota
Bitburg at Ansbach
Aviano at Hohenfels

Volleyball

Saturday

Baumholder, Ansbach, Vilsack at Hohenfels
Lakenheath, Ramstein, Bitburg at AFNORTH
Alconbury, Menwith Hill, SHAPE at Brussels

Wiesbaden, BFA, Patch at Kaiserslautern
Sigonella, Aviano at Naples
Kaiserslautern

Tennis

Friday

ISB at Lakenheath
SHAPE at Brussels

Saturday

ISB at Alconbury
AFNORTH at Kaiserslautern

Wiesbaden at Ramstein
Ansbach at Patch
Hohenfels at Vilsack
Aviano at Naples
AOSR at Vicenza
Florence at Marymount

Cross country

Saturday

St. John's, SHAPE, AFNORTH, Lakenheath, ISB at Brussels
Baumholder, Bitburg, Wiesbaden at Ramstein
Patch, Hohenfels, Ansbach at Vilsack
Black Forest Academy, Kaiserslautern at Frankfurt International
AOSR, Florence at Vicenza
Sigonella, Aviano, Marymount at Naples

This week's key matchups

Volleyball Lakenheath, Ramstein, Bitburg at AFNORTH

Saturday

AFNORTH coach Kevin Padron referred to this Lions volleyball season as a "rebuilding year" after losing all but three starters. But what the Lions are able to build this fall might be pretty substantial.

AFNORTH participated in an unofficial preseason meet with SHAPE, Brussels and Division I Wiesbaden last weekend. And though official scores weren't recorded, the Lions got the better of the Spartans and Brigands and earned a split with the Warriors.

The Lions face more upper-division competition this weekend as the Lancers and Royals visit Wiesbaden. The two teams played for the Division I championship at fall, with Ramstein claiming the title and both are primed for contention again.

Volleyball Sigonella, Aviano at Naples

Saturday

Aviano and Naples got off to fast starts last Saturday with convincing wins over rivals Vicenza and Sigonella, respectively. Now the 2-0 teams turn their attention to one another.

Aviano's defense-first approach, led by the efforts of libero Sydney Green, yielded consecutive victorious matches against the Cougars. If the offense develops as predicted, the Saints could emerge as a threat to Naples' established dominance in the country.

But the reigning-champion Wildcats have fought off challenges before. The team's senior core of Jessica Wheeler, Andreea Hall and Keylee Soto secured a Friday-Saturday sweep of the tough Jaguars; Naples won all six sets over the two days and never yielded more than 19 points.

Football Lakenheath vs. Vilsack at Vilsack

Saturday

Only two teams are excluded from the playoffs in DODDS Europe's six-team Division I field. Last year, it was the Lancers and Falcons frozen out.

Other than the fact that it ended without a playoff berth, Vilsack's 2013 was impressive. Living up to their reputation as hard-nosed heavy hitters, the Falcons deployed a defense that was the second-stringest in Division I — they lost by a point to Kaiserslautern, and stymied Patch in a 6-0 loss. In the season's high point, they took a shocking 14-13 decision over eventual champion Wiesbaden. Nobody wanted to play the Falcons in the postseason.

As it worked out, nobody had to. The loss to Patch handed the Panthers the fourth seed and left the Falcons to join the winless Lancers on the sideline.



Follow the action

Gregory Broome has the latest on Twitter
@broomestripes

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC



JOE PAK-BLYZNIUK/Special to Stars and Stripes

Yokota's Shota Sprunger tries to evade Seoul American's Sani Buckingham. Seoul American takes on unbeaten Kadena on Saturday, while Yokota plays Kubasaki.

Game of the week

Football: Seoul American (1-1) vs. Kadena (2-0)

When — 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

Where — Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

What — Crucial battle for position in the race for space in the Far East Division I title game scheduled for Nov. 8. Host Panthers (1-0 D-I) can take early command of the chase with a victory. Visiting Falcons (0-1 D-I) need a victory to remain alive in the race.

Players to watch — Seoul American's Myles Haynes (48 carries, 326 yards) and Kadena's Justin Sego (34 carries, 430 yards, four touchdowns) are the unquestioned featured backs for each team. But other players have helped do the heavy lifting for each, such as Joab Ramos and Kyle Ellison for the Falcons and Korte Hixon, Barry Mitchell and Jamaris Harris for the Panthers.

Also — The two teams have combined for five Far East D-I titles, two for Seoul American and each at Kadena's expense. The Panthers exacted payback in 2010, and have also won titles in 2007 and 2009.

— Dave Ornaier, Stars and Stripes

‘Crazy weekend’ for football

By DAVE ORNAIER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Call this “Must-Win Saturday” for Yokota and Seoul American football.

The two teams enter Saturday's games at Kadena and Kubasaki, who finished second and first in the Far East Division I race last season, desperately needing victories to stay alive in the chase for this year's title. They each have one D-I loss; a second would seriously harm those hopes.

“It makes it interesting, if certain teams win and if certain teams lose,” said coach Jim Davis of Seoul American (1-1 overall, 0-1 D-I). “It's a crazy weekend, a good weekend for football.”

The Falcons opened with a 24-6 win Aug. 29 at Division II Humphreys before falling last Saturday at home 21-20 to Yokota. The Panthers (1-1, 0-1) began by losing at home 41-13 to Kadena (2-0, 1-0) on Sept. 5 before leveling their mark at Seoul American.

Seoul American and Kadena kick off at 3 p.m. Yokota at Kubasaki (0-1) follow at 6 p.m.

The weekend appears just as crucial for D-II teams jostling for spots at their title-game table, particularly in Japan, where fledgling Perry (1-0) visits two-time D-II champion Zama (0-1); Japan

hosts the D-II title game this year. In Korea, Humphreys (1-2, 1-1) travels to Osan (0-2). Kickoffs are at 7 p.m. Friday.

Elsewhere, Kinnick (2-0) entertains Edgren (0-2) in an inter-division game at 7 p.m. Friday, with the Eagles seeking their first win in three games. Guam (0-3) is also looking to hit the win column; the Panthers host Okkodo at 7 p.m. Saturday.

In preparing for playing the two biggest DODDS Pacific schools in Okinawa's sultry heat and humidity, coaches try to get the players to focus on the tasks at hand, not what's at stake in the D-I chase.

The Falcons, Davis said, look back on the Yokota loss and acknowledge they were “only a couple of plays away from being there.”

“Do we go into Kadena thinking that they're too strong, or do we rise up from the loss to Yokota and take it out on Kadena? The kids have chosen to take the latter path,” Davis said.

For Yokota, it's simply “business as usual,” coach Tim Pujol said.

“We're just preparing like we usually do,” he said. “We're trying to improve on the things we weren't happy with and just move forward.”

ornaier.dave@stripes.com

Three other key matchups

Football
Yokota vs. Kubasaki
at Kubasaki

Yokota (1-1) at Kubasaki (0-1), 6 p.m. Saturday. Each team needs a victory to keep its D-I title game hopes alive. Battle of running backs between the Dragons' Winston Maxwell and the Panthers' Shota Sprunger.

Football
Perry vs. Zama
at Zama

Matthew C. Perry (1-0) at Zama (0-1), 7 p.m. Friday. Samura's second game in as many weeks at Trojans Field, after their 40-18 win over Robert D. Edgren last Saturday. Trojans looking to win their first Division II game this season.

Cross country
DODDS meet
at Iwakuni

DODDS schools at Matthew C. Perry, 10 a.m. Saturday. Race being held on Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni this year, after flooding and landslides wiped out the course they usually use off base. First 3.1-mile race for Yokota's Daniel Galvin and Zama's Kai Cordrey.

Schedule

Cross country

DODDS at M.C. Perry

Korea Group B (Yongsan International-Seoul, Korea International, Seoul American, Korea Kent Foreign, Dwight School Seoul) vs. Korea Group

C (Osan, Seoul International, Gyeonggi Suwon International, Humphreys) at Humphreys

Monday, Sept. 22

JFK vs. St. John's at Two Lovers' Point, Harvest Christian at George Washington, Okkodo at Simon Sanchez, Southern at Guam

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Okinawa schools at Okinawa Christian

Girls volleyball

Friday, Sept. 19

ASU at Seisen
Yongsan International-Seoul at Daegu, Seoul Foreign at Humphreys, Osan at Taegon Christian
Kubasaki at Kadena
Harvest Christian at Guam, JFK at

GW, Simon Sanchez at Notre Dame, St. Paul at Academy of Our Lady, St. John's at Southern

Friday, Sept. 19-Saturday, Sept. 20

Edgren at Zama, E.J. King and Perry at Fukuoka International

Saturday, Sept. 20

St. Maur and YIS at CAJ
YIS-S at Osan, SFS at SAHS, TCIS at Daegu

Yomei at Kadena

Southern at HCA, GHS at JFK, St. Paul at ND, AOLG at St. John's, GAA at Okkodo, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Zama at ASU, YIS at ISH

Tuesday, Sept. 23

SSHS at JFK, St. Paul at St. John's, Okkodo at HCA, GW at Southern, GHS at AOLG

Wednesday, Sept. 24

YIS vs. St. Maur

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Osan at Humphreys

Thursday, Sept. 25

Kadena at Kubasaki

Tennis

Friday, Sept. 19

SAHS at TCIS, SFS at SIS, KIS at YIS-S

Friday, Sept. 19-Saturday, Sept. 20

Edgren and Yokota at CAJ
Perry and King at Seiri Osaka International

Saturday, Sept. 20

ASU at Kinnick
Seisen, ISH and St. Mary's at Zama, Yokota at CAJ

SFS at TCIS, SIS at SAHS

GSIS at Daegu, Osan at CIS

Tuesday, Sept. 23

ASU at Seisen (girls), CAJ at ASU (boys)

Wednesday, Sept. 24

YIS-S at SIS

Thursday, Sept. 25

All Okinawa schools at Kadena

Boys volleyball

Friday, Sept. 19

YIS-S at Daegu, Seoul Foreign at Humphreys, Osan at TCIS

Saturday, Sept. 20

YIS-S at Osan, Seoul Foreign at Seoul American, TCIS at Daegu

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Osan at Humphreys

Dave Ornaier

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College GameDay



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Player to watch

Dak Prescott QB | Miss. State

Prescott ranks fourth in the SEC in total offense. He has thrown for 696 yards, nine touchdowns and two interceptions while also running for 273 yards and two touchdowns.

Prescott has gotten the attention of LSU coach Les Miles.

"Dak Prescott is as good a player as there is at his position in our conference," Miles said. "He makes the throws and he has the ability to pull it down. He runs with strength."

Mississippi State at No. 18 LSU
1 a.m. Sunday, CET
8 a.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea
AFN-Xtra



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama running back T.J. Yeldon fends off Southern Mississippi linebacker Alan Howze on Sept. 13. Yeldon and Derrick Henry have each had only 16 total carries in the past two games. So they should be rested and ready to take pressure off QB Blake Sims in his first SEC start Saturday against Florida.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Louisville	0	0	3 0
NC State	0	0	3 0
Florida St.	0	0	2 0
Syracuse	0	0	2 0
Duke	0	0	2 0
Georgia Tech.	0	0	1 2
Wake Forest	0	0	1 2
Boston College	0	1	2 1
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Pittsburgh	1	0	3 0
Virginia	1	0	3 0
Duke	0	0	2 0
Georgia Tech.	0	0	3 0
North Carolina	0	0	2 0
Virginia Tech.	0	0	2 1
Miami	0	1	2 1

Game of the week: No. 22 Clemson at No. 1 Florida State. Last year's showcase matchup of top-five teams in Death Valley quickly turned into a show of the Seminoles' dominance on their way to winning the national championship. Saturday's rematch lacks the same hype with FSU (2-0) opening as a 19½-point favorite in a key Atlantic Division matchup.

Inside the numbers: The "Triangle" schools of Duke, North Carolina and NC State are unbeaten at 8-0. That marks the first time those teams were unbeaten after Week 3 in the ACC season since 1994, according to STATS. **Player to watch:** Boston College quarterback Tyler Murphy. The graduate transfer from Florida has provided an immediate jolt for the Eagles. He ran for a career-high 191 yards in last week's upset of USC and ranks eighth nationally with 401 yards rushing heading into this week's game against Maine.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Penn St.	1	0	3 0
Maryland	0	0	2 1
Michigan	0	0	2 1
Ohio St.	0	0	2 1
Indiana	0	0	1 1
Michigan St.	0	0	1 1
Rutgers	0	1	2 1
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Nebraska	0	0	3 0
Illinois	0	0	2 1
Iowa	0	0	2 1
Minnesota	0	0	2 1
Wisconsin	0	0	1 1
Purdue	0	0	1 2
Northwestern	0	0	2 2

Game of the week: Miami at Nebraska. Four of the last five Miami-Nebraska games were in bowls, and the winner emerged as that year's national champion. The stakes will be considerably lower when they meet in Lincoln. Nebraska (3-0) hasn't won a conference title since 1999 or played in a BCS game since it was a controversial pick to go to the 2002 Rose Bowl.

Inside the numbers: Wisconsin has won its last six games following a bye week by an average of 34.3 points. Michigan State WR Tony Lippett already has 15 catches for 300 yards and three touchdowns this season. **Player to watch:** Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon. The Star RB is coming off a subpar outing after rushing for just 38 yards on 17 carries two weekends ago against Western Illinois. Gordon might be looking forward to facing a Falcons defense that allowed 190 yards rushing and three touchdowns to Indiana's Tevin Coleman last week.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Kansas St.	1	0	2 0
Baylor	0	0	3 0
Oklahoma	0	0	3 0
TCU	0	0	2 1
Oklahoma St.	0	0	2 1
Texas Tech.	0	0	2 1
West Virginia	0	0	1 1
Kansas	0	0	1 1
Texas	0	0	1 2
Iowa St.	0	1	2 2

Game of the week: No. 2 Oklahoma at West Virginia. While six Big 12 teams are getting the weekend off before conference play kicks into full gear, the Sooners (3-0) leave the state of Oklahoma for the first time this season to take on West Virginia (2-1) in a league opener for both teams. The last time the teams played in Morgantown two years ago, the Sooners pulled out a 50-49 victory after Landry Jones threw his sixth TD pass with 24 seconds left.

Inside the numbers: Oklahoma, coming off a decisive 34-10 win over SEC team Tennessee, goes for its eighth victory in a row. Bob Stoops tries to become the first coach to win 100 Big 12 regular-season games. **Player to watch:** West Virginia senior receivers Kevin White and Mario Alford. They are 1-2 in the Big 12 in receptions per game. White is second nationally with 10.7 catches per game, and his 153.3 yards per game is fourth nationally.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Oregon	0	0	3 0
Washington	0	0	3 0
California	0	0	2 0
Oregon St.	0	0	2 0
Washington St.	0	0	1 2
Stanford	0	1	2 1
South			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Arizona St.	1	0	3 0
Southern Cal	1	0	2 1
Arizona	0	0	3 0
UCLA	0	0	3 0
Utah	0	0	2 0
Colorado	0	1	2 2

Game of the week: No. 2 Oregon at Washington State. The Ducks' quest to make the four-team playoff at the end of the season would likely not survive a loss to Washington State, which is still in a rebuilding mode under third-year coach Mike Leach. In last year's meeting Cougars QB Conney Hailday attempted an NCAA record 89 passes for 557 yards but was intercepted four times.

Inside the numbers: Washington's John Ross already has three touchdown receptions longer than 55 yards. Ross has had the ball in his hands 17 times this season and gained 465 all-purpose yards (27.4 yards per touch). **Player to watch:** Nick Wilson, Arizona. The freshman running back has rushed for more than 100 yards and scored a touchdown in all three games. He'll be part of an offense that presents a set of challenges California hasn't yet proved capable of stopping.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force
Does not play
Last week: Beat
Georgia State, 48-38
Next game: vs.
Boise State, Sept. 27



Army
at Wake Forest
Last week: Lost to
Stanford, 35-0
Next game: vs. Yale,
Sept. 27



Navy
vs. Rutgers
Last week: Beat
Texas State, 35-21
Next game: vs. W.
Kentucky, Sept. 27

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday's game

No. 5 Auburn at No. 20 Kansas State

Saturday

No. 1 Florida State vs. No. 22 Clemson

No. 2 Oregon at Washington State
No. 3 Alabama vs. Florida

No. 6 Oklahoma at West Virginia

No. 6 Texas A&M at SMU

No. 8 LSU vs. Mississippi State

No. 11 Michigan State vs. Eastern Michigan

No. 13 Georgia vs. Troy

No. 14 South Carolina at Vanderbilt

No. 18 Missouri vs. Indiana

No. 19 Wisconsin vs. Bowling Green

No. 21 BYU vs. Virginia

No. 24 Nebraska vs. Miami

SEC

East			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Florida	1	0	3 0
South Carolina	1	1	2 1
Missouri	0	0	3 0
Tennessee	0	0	2 1
Georgia	0	0	2 1
Vanderbilt	0	1	1 1
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
			W L
Mississippi	1	0	3 0
Texas A&M	1	0	3 0
Auburn	1	0	2 0
Alabama	0	0	3 0
LSU	0	0	3 0
Mississippi St.	0	0	3 0
Arkansas	0	1	2 1

Game of the week: Florida at No. 3 Alabama: The Gators lead the nation in turnover margin, and they'll likely need to force more takeaways to have a shot at pulling the upset in Tuscaloosa. Alabama has won its last three meetings with Florida by an average margin of 24 points, and the Tide are favored by 14½ points in the latest matchup between two of the SEC's heavyweight programs.

Inside the numbers: Nine of the SEC's 14 teams are averaging more than 40 points per game and 12 teams are averaging more than 30. Texas A&M is tops with 54.3 points per game. ... LSU's Travin Dural is averaging more than 30 yards per catch so far this season.

Player to watch: Missouri's Maty Mauk. He has thrown 12 touchdown passes, putting him in a three-way tie for the FBS lead with Washington State's Connor Halliday and Western Kentucky's Brandon Doughty.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hill's play raising
BYU QB's profileBY ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

Virginia (2-1)
at No. 21 BYU (3-0)
AFN-Xtra
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

There was a point in BYU's victory over Houston when quarterback Taysom Hill barreled across the line of scrimmage for a hard-fought first down. He threw a fist in the air and roared in jubilation.

Hill has made a career of such plays where he tucks the ball, puts his head down and fearlessly plows downfield. "Whatever it takes," he said.

"I love playing this game. I love my teammates and I love battling for them."

With every dash and pass he makes, Hill's profile is on the rise — as is BYU's. Now 3-0 with victories over the Cougars and Texas the week before, BYU has jumped to No. 21 to prolong the team's first national ranking since early 2012. BYU hosts Virginia on Saturday afternoon.

Hill is the very archetype of the dual-threat quarterback. He's thrown for 689 yards and four touchdowns while running for 356 yards and six more scores over the team's first three games. That's 1,045 yards of total offense.

"When you talk about dual-threat, if you looked up a dual-threat quarterback in a dictionary, they should have his picture there as an example," Houston coach Tony Levine said.

Texas defensive coordinator Vance Bedford said BYU's quarterback reminds him of Tim Tebow.

Hill threw for 181 yards and ran for 99 more with three touchdowns in BYU's 41-7 dismantling of the Longhorns.

"He is like a fullback when he gets the ball in his hands," Bedford said.

Hill has been named the FBS Independents' player of the week in each of the season's first three weeks and he's getting greater national attention with each game. He's handling it with his usual poise.

"Honestly, it's kind of hard because you're getting hit in every direction when that stuff comes up," he said. "I try to do my best to stay in the moment. We have to keep winning and we're going to get some great publicity for our program and our school. But I know in order for that to happen we just have to take care of business."

Against Houston, he threw for 200 yards and a touchdown, and rushed for 160 yards on 26 carries with another score. The performance put him over 4,000 yards passing and 2,000 yards rushing for his career, a feat only 14 other quarterbacks have accomplished in FBS history.

He's averaging 118.7 yards rushing per game this season, most among FBS-level quarterbacks. He also averages 348.3 yards of total offense per game.

And he doesn't mind all those carries.

"I would say my mindset is, whatever it takes," he said. "If I have to carry a ball 23 times a game, I'm willing to do that for



RICK BOWMER/AP

BYU quarterback Taysom Hill (4) walks off the field after a 33-25 win over Houston on Sept. 11. Hill's play on the field — he has 689 yards passing and 356 on the ground in three games — has led the Cougars back into the national rankings for the first time since early in the 2012 season.

our football team. As long as we get the 'W' I'm cool with that."

Last season as a sophomore, Hill had six games with 100-plus yards rushing. He finished with 4,282 yards in total offense, fifth on BYU's accomplished single-season list behind Steve Young, Jim McMahon and Ty Detmer (twice).

Originally committed to Stanford, Hill came to BYU instead,

following his LDS mission in Australia. He played in six games as a freshman, starting two, before a knee injury cut his season short.

When BYU played Virginia to open last season, the Cavaliers won 19-16 at home after a two-hour lightning delay following the first quarter. But seeing Hill up close convinced Virginia linebacker Henry Coley that the quarterback's name should

be included in any Heisman conversation.

"I thought he should have been up there last year because he definitely put that team on his back, day in and day out. Even last year, he took some hits," Coley said. "I told him after the game, 'You got heart, man' because I don't want to say he is the team, but in my eyes, he kinda is the team because that sparked everything."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Shadow of the past

Miami-Nebraska offers look back at days of glory

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

WHenever they run into each other at a function for Heisman Trophy winners, Mike Rozier reminds Gino Torretta of their schools' shared history.

"If you guys wouldn't have beaten us," the 1983 winner for Nebraska tells the 1992 winner for Miami, "you wouldn't have went on the run you had. We put the Miami program on the map."

Miami, in turn, did the same for Tom Osborne's dominant Nebraska teams of the mid-1990s.

For two decades starting in the 1980s, the Hurricanes and Cornhuskers, along with Florida State, were the dominant programs in college football. Miami won 189 games and five national titles from 1983 to 2001, and the Huskers triumphed in 201 games and three titles.

The programs' images couldn't have been more in contrast. Miami, or "The U," represented the glitz of the South Florida fast lane, and the Huskers the staid, hard-working life on the Plains.

Four of the last five times the teams played, all in bowls, the winner was crowned national champion. Many of the participants went on to illustrious NFL careers.

The stakes will be considerably lower when they meet Saturday night in Lincoln.

No. 24 Nebraska (3-0) hasn't won a conference title since 1999 or played in a BCS game since it was a controversial pick to go to the 2002 Rose Bowl, where the Hurricanes won their last national title.

Unranked Miami (2-1) hasn't won a conference championship or played in a BCS game since the 2003 season.

Nebraska fans believe Miami's visit is long overdue. In four of the last five games Nebraska had to play on the Hurricanes' turf, the since-demolished Orange Bowl stadium. Osborne said Miami's home-field advantage probably was worth seven to 10 points.



GARY KAZANJIAN/AP

Nebraska's Randy Gregory, top, tackles Fresno State's Josh Quezada during the second half of Saturday's game in Fresno, Calif. No. 24 Nebraska won 55-19.

The Huskers were just beginning their descent when the teams last met. Frank Solich's Huskers started 2001 with 11 straight wins but lost 62-36 at Colorado in their final regular-season game. Few believed Nebraska deserved to play in the BCS championship game in the Rose Bowl, and Larry Coker-coached Miami won 37-14.

The effects of the firing of Solich after the 2003 season and the ill-conceived hiring of Bill Callahan are still felt in Lincoln, where Bo Pelini is in his seventh season.

Miami lost to Ohio State in the BCS title game after the 2002 season but by 2006 was out of the Top 25, not to appear again for three years. Later, the discovery of NCAA violations by a booster brought a self-imposed bowl ban, probation and other sanctions. Third-year coach Al Golden continues to pick up the pieces.

No matter, these proud programs climb to glory years that are becoming more distant. If for only three hours, they'll re-live them Saturday night.

AP Sports Writer Tim Reynolds in Coral Gables, Florida, contributed to this report.

Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya was thrown into the fire as a freshman starter this season and is now getting ready to face No. 24 Nebraska on Saturday night.

ALAN DIAZ/AP

The last five

Miami and Nebraska have played 10 times in football, with each team winning five games. The last five meetings have been in bowl games, and four decided national championships. Here's what happened:

1984 Orange Bowl: Miami 31, Nebraska 30. No. 1 Nebraska showed up as a 10½-point favorite. No. 5 Miami was in its first bowl in 33 years. Freshman QB Bernie Kosar got the Hurricanes out to a quick 17-0 lead. The Cornhuskers rallied to tie it, fell behind again by two touchdowns and then pulled to 31-30 with 48 seconds left. Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, in a career-defining decision, went for the two-point conversion and the win. Miami's Ken Calhoun batted away Turner Gill's pass for Jeff Smith, and the Hurricanes won the first of their five national titles.

1989 Orange Bowl: Miami 23, Nebraska 3. The No. 2 Hurricanes overwhelmed No. 6 Nebraska, but Notre Dame beat West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl earlier in the day and ended up as national champion by virtue of its one-point, regular-season win over Miami. Steve Walsh threw two touchdown passes, and the Hurricanes limited Nebraska to 80 yards rushing.

1992 Orange Bowl: Miami 22, Nebraska 0. Gino Torretta led the top-ranked Hurricanes to scores on their first three possessions, and they won their fourth AP national title in nine years. Washington was the coaches' choice. No. 11 Nebraska clearly was overmatched, going to the Orange Bowl only because it was the Big Eight champion. The Huskers were shut out for the first time in 221 games.

1995 Orange Bowl: Nebraska 24, Miami 17. Osborne won the first of his three national titles in four years after Cory Schlesinger's touchdown runs of 15 and 14 yards left the No. 1 Huskers overcome a 17-9 fourth-quarter deficit against the No. 3 Hurricanes. QB Tommie Frazier started after having not played in more than three months because of blood clots. Brook Beringer took over after Nebraska fell behind 10-0 early, but Frazier returned in the fourth quarter to lead the tying and winning drives.

2002 Rose Bowl: Miami 37, Nebraska 14. The top-ranked Hurricanes opened a 34-point lead in the first half against a No. 4 Nebraska team that, according to most observers, didn't deserve to be in the BCS title game coming off a 62-36 loss to Colorado. Ken Dorsey shredded the Huskers' secondary, and Miami held an offense led by Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch to 259 yards. Miami won its fifth national title, and third at the expense of the Huskers.

— The Associated Press

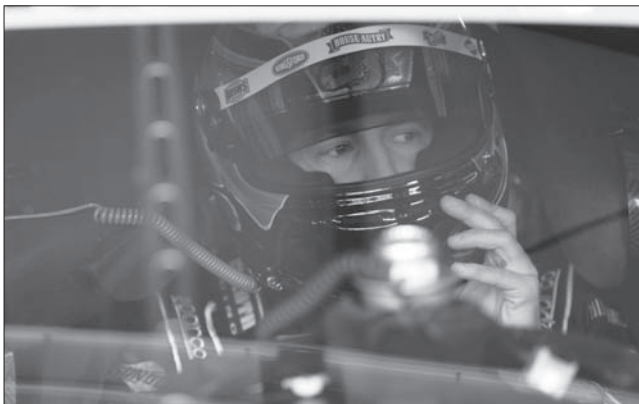


KATHY WILLENS/AP

Nebraska quarterback Turner Gill walks off the field after the Huskers' 31-30 loss to Miami on Jan. 2, 1984 in the Orange Bowl.



AUTO RACING



NAM Y. HUN/AP

AJ Allmendinger was never competitive in the Chase for the championship opener, finishing 22nd.

Allmendinger, Almirola just happy to be there

A CHARLOTTE, N.C. J Allmendinger and Aric Almirola were the underdogs of the Chase, the two drivers nobody thought could win the Sprint Cup championship.

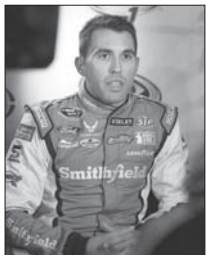
They knew it, too, when they arrived in Chicago and for the first time in their careers were allowed behind NASCAR's velvet rope. They got the white glove treatment in a private dinner with chairman Brian France and his executives, and were whisked around the city during a celebration of the 16-driver field.

Scoring an invite to the party was a coup; not getting kicked out early a major challenge.

"I was laughing at it, (Vegas) made odds for 14 drivers," said Allmendinger, "and me and Almirola were just 'The Field' for the championship. There were 14 names with odds, and then 'The Field' at 500-to-1."

Almirola made the Chase by winning the rain-shortened July race at Daytona, where he gave Hall of Famer Richard Petty his first win in 15 years. Allmendinger used a gritty drive on the road course at Watkins Glen to score his first Cup win and put tiny JTG/Daugherty Racing into the Chase.

So in a sense, both Allmendinger and Almirola should have gone into the Chase with a "we're just happy to be here mentality." They didn't, though. They both wanted more, and both wanted to



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Aric Almirola ran as high as fourth Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway and was in sixth place when his engine failed. He wound up 41st.

survive the first round of eliminations. To do so, they would have to be perfect and work in a margin with zero room for errors.

It's a terribly hard task, and one neither succeeded at on Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. Almirola was easily the biggest surprise of the opening Chase race, running as high as fourth, and he was sixth when he headed to pit road for a routine stop. Then his engine suddenly failed and his race was over. Almirola finished 41st in a devastating ending to what had been shaping up to be a monster day.

"I've never been so heartbroken, ever," Almirola said from the garage after Petty draped his arm around the dejected driver. "To be running that good with (just) over 30 laps to go ... I've

been saying all week that we can't have a big mistake."

Allmendinger simply wasn't competitive enough on Sunday. He was 22nd for the third-worst finish among Chase drivers.

"I'm thinking big picture, man, but we do this every weekend," he radioed to his team with 86 laps remaining. "I mean, I know you guys are trying, we are all in it together, but it just gets harder every weekend and we don't make any progress."

Now with two races remaining before NASCAR knocks the bottom four drivers out of the Chase, Allmendinger is 14th in the standings and Almirola last in the 16-driver field. Yet they had to know this was going to happen, that it's just too hard to stand up for 10 weeks against Team Penske and Hendrick Motorsports.

Allmendinger sort of hinted at that in the buildup to Sunday when he was already looking ahead to the Sept. 28 race at Dover, where the field will be trimmed. He has three top-10 finishes there and led 143 laps there in 2010.

"We've just got to be perfect," he said. "I look at a race like Dover, depending on how the first two (races) have run, if we have to win it to stay in it, then you start taking some chances."

So now Almirola and Allmendinger will have to gamble the next two weeks and go for broke on every decision. There can be no second-guessing because their seasons are officially on the line.

"We have to win. That is it. There is no other option," Almirola said Sunday. "We have to go and figure out how we can win one of the next two races."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Sylvania 300 at Loudon, N.H.

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1.058 miles).

Distance: 318.46 miles, 300 laps.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday Central European Time; 3 a.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the last of his seven 2013 victories, holding off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won the Chase opener at Chicagoland. He has won consecutive races and leads the series with five victories.

Next race: AAA 400, Sept. 28, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Del.

Online: nascar.com

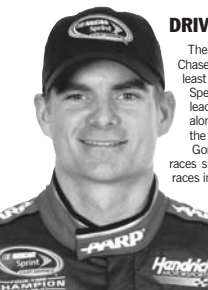
POINTS STANDINGS

1. Brad Keselowski	2,059
2. Jeff Gordon	2,052
3. Joey Logano	2,049
4. Kevin Harvick	2,047
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,042
6. Jimmie Johnson	2,041
7. Kyle Busch	2,041
8. Denny Hamlin	2,041
9. Kurt Busch	2,039
10. Kasey Kahne	2,034
11. Matt Kenseth	2,034
12. Carl Edwards	2,030
13. Ryan Newman	2,029
14. AJ Allmendinger	2,025
15. Greg Biffle	2,021
16. Aric Almirola	2,007
17. Kyle Larson	779
18. Clint Bowyer	751
19. Jamie McMurray	742
20. Austin Dillon	726

DRIVER TO WATCH

There are no fewer than four drivers in the Chase for the championship who have won at least three times at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, but **Jeff Gordon** also has a series-leading 16 top-fives and 22 top-10s to go along with four poles. He also sits in second in the standings after the first of the Chase races. Gordon has an average finish of 11.0 in all 39 races since the track started hosting Sprint Cup races in 1993.

The other three drivers who have won at least three races are past Cup winners Jimmy Johnson and Kurt Busch and Ryan Newman.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: VisitMyrtleBeach.com 300 at Sparta, Ky.

Track: Kentucky Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.
TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 9 a.m. Sunday CET; 4 p.m. Sunday JKT.

Last year: Truck Series driver Ryan Blaney raced to his first Nationwide victory.

Last week: Sprint Cup driver Kevin Harvick won at Chicagoland for his fourth series victory of the year.

Next race: NASCAR Nationwide Series, Sept. 27, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Del.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

This week: UNOH 175 at Loudon, N.H.

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1.058 miles).

Distance: 185.15 miles, 175 laps.

Last year: No race. In 2011, Kyle Busch raced to his third straight victory at the track.

Last week: Busch won the rain-delayed race at Chicagoland for his sixth victory in eight starts this season.

Next race: Rhino Linings 350, Sept. 27, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Singapore Grand Prix at Singapore.

Track: Marina Bay Street Circuit (street course, 3.147 miles).

Distance: 191.98 miles, 61 laps.
Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel

traced to the seventh of his 13 2013 victories. He's winless this season.

Last race: Lewis Hamilton won the Italian Grand Prix on Sept. 7 for his sixth victory of the year.

Next race: Japanese Grand Prix, Oct. 3, Suzuka International, Suzuka, Japan.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Texas Fall Nationals at Ennis, Texas.

Track: Texas Motorplex.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2:30 a.m. Monday CET; 9:30 a.m. Monday JKT.

Last year: Doug Kalitta ended a 71-race Top Fuel victory drought. Cruz Pedregon won in Funny Car, Jason Line in Pro Stock, and Eddie Krawiec in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last week: Rain washed out most of the final eliminations in the Carolina Nationals, forcing series officials to reschedule them during qualifying rounds at Texas.

Next event: Midwest Nationals, Sept. 26-28, Gateway Motorsports Park, Madison, Ill.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: ZLOOP 150, Friday, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Online: arcacaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car 4-Crown Nationals, Friday, Eldora Speedway, Rossburg, Ohio; Commonweath Clash, Saturday, Lernerville Speedway, Saver, Pa. Super DIRT Car: Sunday, Fonda Speedway, Fonda, N.Y.

Online: worldoutlaws.com

— The Associated Press

In the
Pits



by JENNA
FRYER • AP

MLB

September Showdowns

Milwaukee Brewers at Pittsburgh Pirates

The matchup

The Milwaukee Brewers (79-73) open a three-game series on Friday night against the Pittsburgh Pirates (81-70) at PNC Park in Pittsburgh.

Where they stand

The Pirates lead the Brewers by 2½ games for the second wild card spot in the National League, but both teams are still in the running for the NL Central Division championship. The Pirates are 2½ games behind the division-leading St. Louis Cardinals (83-68) while the Brewers are five games back.

How they got here

Milwaukee coasted atop the NL Central for a good part of the season before falling back to the pack. A 1-13 stretch in late August-early September included a nine-game losing streak that dropped the Brewers into third place in the division and threatened to end the team's postseason hopes. The streaky Brewers look like they've righted the ship, though, with wins in five of their past seven games.

The Pirates were almost the mirror image of the Brewers, sleepwalking through the season's first half before hitting a hot streak in September. The Pirates lost 9-2 to Baltimore on May 20 that dropped Pittsburgh to its lowest mark for the season with an 18-26 record, a .409 pace. Since then, the Pirates have played at a .589 clip, going 63-44 to reach their high-water mark of 11 games over .500 and have won 11 of their past 13 games.

Season series

The Brewers dominated the Pirates early in the season, winning seven of the first eight games and have an 11-5 advantage overall. Pittsburgh took two of three from Milwaukee in their last series Aug. 22-24, outscoring the Brewers 21-9 in the three-game set.

Probable pitchers

FRIDAY: Milwaukee will send **Yovani Gallardo** (8-10 record, 3.59 ERA, 130 strikeouts) to the hill against Pittsburgh's **Jeff Locke** (7-4, 3.60, 78 Ks). Gallardo has been roughed up lately, carrying an 0-3 record and a 7.36 ERA in his past three starts while Locke is 1-2 with a 4.70 ERA and 17 Ks.

SATURDAY: **Matt Garza** (8-8, 3.74 ERA, 120 Ks) will go for Milwaukee while Pittsburgh counters with **Edinson Volquez** (11-7, 3.36 ERA, 119 Ks). Volquez has pitched well recently, going 1-0 with a 1.86 ERA and 15 Ks in his past three starts. Garza is 1-1 with a 5.54 ERA and 16 Ks.

SUNDAY: The Brewers finish out the three-game series with **Wily Peralta** (16-10, 3.70 ERA, 137 Ks) on the mound while the Pirates go with **Charlie Morton** (5-12, 3.84, 120 Ks).

What's next

The Pirates hit the road for four games against the Atlanta Braves, another team in the thick of the wild-card chase. Pittsburgh then goes to Cincinnati for a three-game series against the Central rival Reds.

The Brewers continue a nine-game road trip with three in Cincinnati before ending the season at home with a three-game series against the Chicago Cubs.

Detroit Tigers at Kansas City Royals

The matchup

The Detroit Tigers (84-68) open a three-game series on Friday night against the Kansas City Royals (83-68) at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

Where they stand

The Tigers lead the Royals by a half-game for the American League Central Division title. The Royals and Oakland Athletics are tied atop the wild-card standings while the Seattle Mariners (81-70) are two games back. Cleveland is next at 78-73, five games behind.

How they got here

The defending AL Central Division champion Detroit Tigers are back on top after spending the better part of a month looking up at the surprise team of the year, the Kansas City Royals.

After winning three straight from the Royals in Kansas City July 18-20, the Tigers stood 53-37 and led Cleveland by 6½ games while Kansas City was mired in third place, 48-50 and eight games behind. But the Tigers went into a mini slump, losing nine of 14 as injuries continued to plague its starting pitching staff.

The Royals took advantage and got hot at the right time. Kansas City won 34 of its next 52 games, including a 25-5 stretch from July 22 to Aug. 23. The Royals gained 10 games in the standings on the Tigers, jumping from eight behind to two in front of Detroit.

Season series

The Tigers lead the season series with the Royals 11-5 and have won six of the past eight games. In their last meeting, the Royals' **James Shields** shut out the Tigers 3-0 on Sept. 10 on two hits. It also helped Kansas City avoid a three-game sweep by Detroit.

Probable pitchers

FRIDAY: Kansas City lefty **Jason Vargas** (11-9, 3.41 ERA, 126 Ks) goes up against Detroit's **Justin Verlander** (12-12, 4.80 ERA, 139 Ks). Verlander, a former Cy Young award winner, a .500 pitcher all season that has dealt with elbow and back problems, has been hit hard over his past three starts, posting a 1-1 record with a 6.05 ERA and 17 Ks.

SATURDAY: In the series' marquee matchup, Detroit's reigning Cy Young winner, **Max Scherzer** (15-5, 3.25 226 Ks) faces Kansas City ace **James Shields** (14-7, 3.15 ERA 170 Ks). Scherzer beat Kansas City 4-2 Sept. 9 and Shields followed with his two-hit shutout the next day.

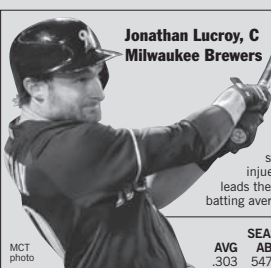
SUNDAY: A battle of right-handers features Kansas City's **Jeremy Guthrie** (11-11, 4.35 ERA, 116 Ks) against Detroit's **Rick Porcello** (15-10, 3.25 ERA, 110 Ks) in the series finale and Kansas City's final home game.

What's next

The Royals are on the road to finish the season with an eight-game swing against the Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox. Kansas City must finish a "home" game in Cleveland on Monday that was suspended Aug. 31 because of rain. The Indians lead that game 5-3 in the 10th inning.

The Tigers begin a seven-game homestand with the White Sox and Minnesota Twins to end the season.

Players to watch



Jonathan Lucroy, C
Milwaukee Brewers

Jonathan Lucroy was the starting catcher for the National League this season, replacing the injured Yadier Molina, and leads the Brewers with a .303 batting average.

SEASON STATISTICS					
AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
.303	547	71	166	13	67

MCT photo



Josh Harrison, 3B
Pittsburgh Pirates

A leading candidate for team MVP, Josh Harrison has played five different positions for the Pirates this season. He leads the team in batting average (.318) and is second in on-base percentage (.351).

SEASON STATISTICS					
AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
.318	472	72	150	13	52

AP photo




Miguel Cabrera, 1B
Detroit Tigers

An ankle injury has hampered the two-time American League MVP and nine-time All-Star for the entire season, but Miguel Cabrera continues to be dangerous at the plate in the No. 3 spot in the lineup for the AL Central Division-leading Tigers.

SEASON STATISTICS					
AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
.318	572	97	182	23	103

AP photo



Alex Gordon, LF
Kansas City Royals

Kansas City's Alex Gordon earned his second straight All-Star Game appearance this season. He continues to be the driving force for the Royals' turnaround this season, especially on defense. The speedy left fielder has seven assists and has committed only two errors in 330 chances this year.

SEASON STATISTICS					
AVG	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
.269	532	83	143	19	70

MCT photo

NFL



LM OTERO/AP

The NFL reached an agreement with the players association on changes to its performance-enhancing drug policy, including the addition of human growth hormone testing, which will allow Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker and two other previously suspended players to return to their teams this week. Under the new rules announced Wednesday, players who test positive for banned stimulants in the offseason will no longer be suspended. Instead, they will be referred to the substance abuse program.

League, union agree on new drug policy

NFL gets HGH testing in exchange for relaxed penalties on substance abuse

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL finally will have HGH testing, perhaps as early as the end of this month.

And of more immediate impact — this weekend — the new performance-enhancing drug policy the league and players' union agreed to Wednesday will allow the Broncos' Wes Welker and two other suspended players to return to the field.

Welker, Dallas Cowboys defensive back Orlando Scandrick and St. Louis Rams wide receiver Stedman Bailey had been suspended for four games. All can return Sunday under the new rules in which players who test positive for banned stimulants in the offseason will no longer be suspended. Instead, they will be referred to the substance abuse program.

Players who test positive for banned stimulants during the season will continue to get four-game suspensions.

"I said it was flawed and we got it fixed," said Welker, who tested positive for amphetamines in the offseason. "I think you know that just kind of goes to show it was flawed and it's fixed now and we can move on from it."

The league and union are also nearing an agreement on changes to the substance abuse policy. That could reduce Cleveland Browns receiver Josh Gordon's season-

long ban.

Testing for HGH was agreed upon in 2011 when a new collective bargaining agreement ended the lockout of the players. But the players had balked at the science in the testing and the appeals process for positive tests. Under the new deal, appeals of positive tests in the PED program will be heard by third-party arbitrators jointly selected and paid for by the NFL and union. Appeals will be processed more expeditiously under altered procedures.

The new rules also change the length of suspensions. Previously, all first-time violations of the performance-enhancing drug policy resulted in at least a four-game suspension.

Now, use of a diuretic or masking agent will result in a two-game suspension. The punishment for steroids, in-season use of stimulants, HGH or other banned substances is four games. Evidence of an attempt to manipulate a test is a six-game suspension.

A second violation will result in a 10-game ban, up from a minimum of eight games. A third violation is at least a two-year suspension. Before, the ban was at least a year.

"We are talking about cleaning up our game and keeping a clean game," Scandrick said Wednesday. "We are not cleaning up our game if we are suspending guys for stimulants and not testing guys for human growth hormones."

Run: Teams rarely have QBs practice their sliding

FROM BACK PAGE

Yet even with all the mobile quarterbacks now in the league, the simple act of sliding feet first to be protected by rule from defenders seems to be a lost art.

Cam Newton, who has most yards (2,032) and touchdowns (28) running the past three years of any quarterback, missed the Carolina Panthers' season opener after cracking his ribs going headfirst at the end of a run in a preseason game. Playing with a flak jacket Sunday, he took off twice. Geno Smith of the New York Jets went headfirst in the opener a couple times and slid once against the Packers in Week 2.

Tennessee's Jake Locker missed the final seven games of 2013 hurting his right foot on an option play where he dove forward for more yards. The Los Angeles Angels drafted Locker twice as a center fielder. So how did he slide on a baseball field?

"I was headfirst most of the time," Locker said.

Wilson, who played in the Rockies' system as a second baseman, took part in the Texas Rangers' spring-training camp a few weeks after winning the Super Bowl earlier this year. Colin Kaepernick of San Francisco threw two no-hitters in high school before choosing football. He went headfirst with several Bears approaching Sunday night, a play wiped out by a hold. Bears quarterback Jay Cutler finished off a 25-yard run sliding with his left leg out front.

Kaepernick said last week that finishing off a run is pretty instinctual.

"I mean I've been running the football since I was 8 years old, so I'm not too worried about it at this point," Kaepernick said.

Teams rarely have their quarterbacks practice sliding. After Smith's headfirst approach in the opener, Jets coach Rex Ryan said maybe Derek Jeter could teach Smith to slide. Panthers coach Ron Rivera joked last month he might need someone from the Triple-A baseball Charlotte Knights to teach his quarterback how to slide. Rivera wants Newton to slide but doesn't want to take away who his quarterback is as a player.

"He can't help himself (and) he ran a couple of times. He did the best he could with it," Rivera said of Newton.

Reid would rather his quarterbacks slide feet first, but he also recalled having a



REED HOFFMAN/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith slides feet first against the Tennessee Titans defense. Living to take the next snap and stay on the field is a crucial part of the job for an NFL quarterback.

pretty good one who went headfirst. That would be Michael Vick in Philadelphia, who missed three games in 2010 after getting hurt leading with his head but returned for a career year. He still slides headfirst.

Whisenhunt said the Steelers tried getting Kordell Stewart to practice sliding.

"He was awful, and it just wasn't worth the time," Whisenhunt said. "Then he ended up doing OK in the games. I think it's more about understanding where you are on the field and what's around you. But at some point, and I think I've said this, it's fourth-and-1, it's a goal-line play, you got to play football."

Anytime a quarterback runs, defenders can land a lick that won't draw a flag as long as he goes headfirst. The biggest challenge for defenders is looking to see if the quarterback is sliding or diving. Going headfirst means hit away, as long as they avoid the quarterback's head.

"You want to remind that quarterback to stay in the pocket," Titans safety Bernard Pollard said.



NICK WASS/AP

Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III dives during a game against the Dallas Cowboys in 2012. Griffin's awkward slides have been cause for concern since he suffered a knee injury that ended his spectacular rookie season.

NFL

Cardinals quickly respond on Dwyer

Police: Arizona RB head-butted his wife, punched her in face and took cell phone

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona Cardinals say they first learned of the domestic abuse accusations against running back Jonathan Dwyer on Wednesday afternoon. By evening, citing “the serious nature of these allegations,” the team had deactivated Dwyer from all team activities.

The quick reaction came with the backdrop of intense criticism of the NFL’s handling of a spate of such cases.

Dwyer head-butted his wife and broke her nose after she refused his sexual advances, and punched her in the face the next day, police said Thursday.

The details surfaced in a law enforcement report a day after Dwyer was arrested on aggravated assault charges and was taken into custody at the Cardinals’ practice facility and headquarters in Tempe. He spent a night in jail and made a brief court appearance before being released on bail early Thursday.

The arrest came at a time when the NFL and its commissioner are under fire for violent off-the-field encounters involving some of the league’s marquee players, including Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson and Greg Hardy.

The NFL has said the Dwyer case will be reviewed under the league’s personal-conduct policy.

Dwyer was arrested on Wednesday for investigation in two altercations on July 21 and 22 at his Phoenix residence, just days before the Cardinals reported to training camp. His wife left the state after the incidents, but came forward a week ago after Dwyer apparently sent suicidal text messages including a photo of a knife.

In the first encounter, police say Dwyer attempted to kiss and undress his wife, but she refused. Someone who heard the argument reported the assault to police, who showed up at the apartment but did not make an arrest. Dwyer hid in a bathroom and the wife said she hadn’t been assaulted and denied he was in the home because the running back threatened to kill himself in front of her and their child if she told police about the assault, police said.

The next day, Dwyer punched his wife with a closed fist on the left side of her face, according to police. He also punched walls and threw a shoe at his 17-month-old son, who was not injured, police said.

As his wife tried to call police, Dwyer grabbed her cellphone and threw it down from the home’s second story. Witnesses told po-



DAVID KADLUBOWSKI, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

Phoenix police officers escort Arizona Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer to the 4th Avenue Jail following his arrest on Wednesday on aggravated assault charges in connection with two altercations at his home in July involving a woman and an 18-month-old child.

lice that Dwyer’s wife said, “I’m calling the police” as she held her swollen face and clutched her son.

During his police interview on Wednesday, Dwyer acknowledged hiding in the bathroom when police responded to the first argument, and sending a photo of a knife with suicidal threats. Dwyer denied committing an assault, though he acknowledged that he punched walls in his home, threw a phone, and that his wife bit his lip during the disputes, according to the police report. As he was released from jail on Thursday, he said he never hurt his son.

During Dwyer’s initial court appearance late Wednesday, defense attorney Jared Allen asked that Dwyer be allowed to leave the state for his job, but a court commissioner denied that request after prosecutor Jay Rademacher said the Cardinals had deactivated Dwyer.

The NFL has been jolted by domestic violence issues since a videotape surfaced that showed former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocking out his then-fiancee in an Atlantic City, New Jersey, elevator.

Then Minnesota Vikings star running back Adrian Peterson was indicted on felony child-abuse charges for using a tree branch, or “switch,” to discipline his 4-year-old son.

On Wednesday, the Carolina Panthers decided that star defensive end Greg Hardy won’t play any more games for the team until his domestic violence case is resolved.

Key developments in NFL controversies

Vikings: we made a mistake: The Minnesota Vikings reversed course and indefinitely benched star running back Adrian Peterson, claiming they “made a mistake” in reinstating him as he faced a child abuse charge in Texas for spanking his son with a tree branch. In an interview with the Houston Chronicle, Peterson’s mother said the player was “trying hard to be a good parent” and that she had used her hand, branches and belts to discipline Peterson and his siblings. “When you whip those you love, it’s not about abuse, but love,” Bonita Jackson said.

Dwyer arrested: Arizona running back Jonathan Dwyer was arrested on aggravated assault charges in connection with two altercations at his home in late July involving a 27-year-old woman and an 18-month-old child. One of the counts was “aggravated assault causing a fracture.” The Cardinals said they became aware of the situation on Wednesday and are cooperating with the investigation. Dwyer has been deactivated from all team activities.

Hardy removed: The Carolina Panthers removed Greg Hardy from the team’s active roster until his domestic violence case is resolved. Hardy was convicted July 15 of assault on a female and communicating threats after the victim claimed the 6-foot-4, 275-pound player threw her in the bathtub and onto a sofa covered with guns before threatening to kill her, Hardy is appealing. “We have attempted to be thoughtful about this, but there is no rule book for this,” Carolina general manager Dave Gettleman said.

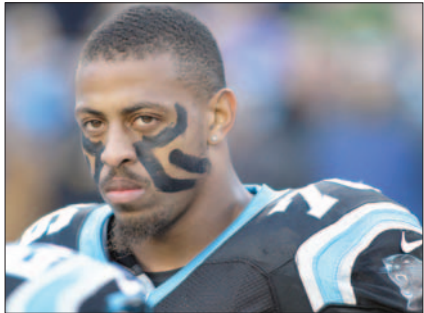
Sponsor watch: Nike suspended its sponsorship deal with Peterson. In a statement, the company said that it “in no way condones child abuse or domestic violence of any kind and has shared our concerns with the NFL.”

Marshall case resurfaces: The father of a woman who once dated Bears receiver Brandon Marshall recounted abuse allegations from 2008 in a news conference, and claimed he wrote the NFL about his daughter’s case but never got a response. Marshall served a one-game suspension in the case. Attorney Gloria Allred, who called the news conference, said she is asking the league to come up with a better investigation procedure.



TONY AVELAR/AP

Chicago Bears wide receiver Brandon Marshall was the subject of a news conference in which the father of a woman Marshall dated recounted abuse allegations. Marshall denied the allegations.



BOB LEVERONE/AP

The Panthers’ Greg Hardy, convicted July 15 of assault but appealing the ruling, was put on the commissioner’s exempt list by Carolina until his case is resolved.

Panthers’ Hardy also on exempt list

By STEVE REED

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers placed Greg Hardy on the exempt-commissioner’s permission list on Wednesday, meaning the Pro Bowl defensive end has been removed from the team’s active squad until his domestic violence case is resolved.

The decision came just hours after the Minnesota Vikings took a similar disciplinary approach with Adrian Peterson, who is addressing child abuse charges in Texas.

Hardy was convicted July 15 of assault on a female and communicating threats after the victim claimed the player threw her in the bathtub and onto a sofa covered with guns before threatening to kill her. Hardy is appealing the ruling and a jury trial is set for Nov. 17.

He will continue to be paid his weekly salary of \$770,588.23. Hardy also is allowed to be at the team facility, but will not practice.

Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman said it was a tough decision given the changing climate in the NFL.

“Our overriding goal has always been to do the right thing,” Gettleman said.

The GM said he expects Hardy to be out at least through November.

Hardy said he understands he needs to step away from football and take care of his legal problems.

“I am entitled to due process and my day in court, and that’s where my focus should be,” Hardy said in a statement. “I appreciate the Panthers for giving me this opportunity and look forward to being back with my teammates. I am disappointed to leave my teammates and the Carolina Panthers during our season. My decision to take a leave of absence allows me to focus on my family until the legal process has run its

course.”

Had Hardy not taken a leave of absence with pay, he likely would have faced an unpaid suspension from the league.

The NFL Players Association released a statement Wednesday saying, “Today, Greg Hardy made a decision to take a voluntary leave of absence to resolve his pending legal issue. The NFLPA and NFL worked with Greg, his representatives and the Carolina Panthers on this matter. We support this decision and hope the best for him and his family.”

Earlier Wednesday, with security around the stadium stepped up, Hardy and his agent Drew Rosenhaus emerged from the team’s facility, stepped into the player’s Bentley and drove away. Earlier, two police officers on motorcycles guarded the entrance to the team’s practice facility.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera was 20 minutes late arriving to Wednesday’s practice and said that Hardy would not participate in workouts as he walked past reporters.

The coach later said he had a 90-minute conversation with the defensive end to make sure Hardy was in a good place.

“Greg’s hurt, he really is,” Rivera said. “It’s a tough situation and he knows he put himself in it. He was apologetic.”

Rivera said he expects Hardy to take a few days away and return to the team “in due time.”

“He’s still a part of this football team,” Rivera said.

Hardy, who signed a one-year, \$13.1 million deal, is Carolina’s top pass rusher. He tied a club record with 15 sacks last season and has 26 in his last 32 games.

Rivera activated Hardy for the season opener against Tampa Bay, but then abruptly deactivated him before Sunday’s game against Detroit — a move Gettleman supported.

Rivera said he believes the team handled the situation in the best way possible.



GAMEDAY

WEEK 3

TELEVISED GAMES



Green Bay Packers (1-1)
at **Detroit Lions (1-1)**

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Packers lead 94-66-7, and have won 15 of the past 17 meetings.

Last meeting: The Lions won 40-10 on Nov. 28, 2013, in Detroit.

Notes: In nine starts against Detroit, QB Aaron Rodgers is 9-0 with 19 TDs, 4 INTs and a 114 rating. In the team's last meeting, Lions RB Reggie Bush had 117 yards rushing, 65 yard receiving and a touchdown.



San Diego Chargers (1-1)
at **Buffalo Bills (2-0)**

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Chargers are 21-10-2, and have won three of the past four meetings.

Last meeting: The Chargers won 37-10 at San Diego on Dec. 11, 2011.

Notes: In three career starts vs. Buffalo, QB Philip Rivers has completed 63 of 91 passes for 608 yards with 6 TDs. Bills QB E.J. Manuel has won 4 of 6 career home starts.

Marquee matchup

Denver Broncos (2-0) at Seattle Seahawks (1-1)

AFN-Sports, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET, 5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Broncos lead 34-18; Denver has won 3 of the past 4.

LAST MEETING: Seahawks beat Broncos 43-8 to win Super Bowl XLVIII on Feb. 2, 2014.

BRONCOS OFFENSE: OVERALL (14), RUSH (24), PASS (11).

BRONCOS DEFENSE: OVERALL (27), RUSH (10), PASS (30).

SEAHAWKS OFFENSE: OVERALL (14), RUSH (4), PASS (25).

SEAHAWKS DEFENSE: OVERALL (11), RUSH (9), PASS (18).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: For only the sixth time, the regular season will feature a rematch of the previous Super Bowl. The Broncos, who improved to 2-0 with a 24-17 win over Kansas City, will look to avenge last year's 43-8 loss in Super Bowl XLVIII. ...Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning aims for

fourth regular-season game in a row with 100+ rating vs. Seattle. Manning's teams are 94-10 (.904) when he has 100+ rating. He needs 3 TD passes to reach 500 career. ...In 2 career starts, RB Montee Ball averages 86 scrimmage yards per game (172 total, 127 rush, 45 receiving) and has rush TD. ...DeMarcus Ware has four sacks in past four games against Seattle. ...Seahawks have won 18 of past 19 at home (including playoffs), outscoring opponents 558-253. ...In Super Bowl, QB Russell Wilson had 123.1 rating. In career vs. AFC (including Super Bowl), he has 18 TDs, 3 INTs & 109.4 rating. ...RB Marshawn Lynch has rush TD in all three meetings versus Denver (including the Super Bowl). He has a touchdown in six consecutive games (including playoffs) and has eight total TDs in those games (7 rush, 1 receiving). ...CB Richard Sherman has 9 INTs (1 TD) in past 13 games at home. Since entering the NFL in 2011, he leads the league with 20 INTs. ...S Earl Thomas has INT in three of past six games against AFC teams, including a 57-yard TD.



Denver Broncos quarterback
Peyton Manning

DAVID EULITT, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



Kansas City Chiefs (0-2)
at **Miami Dolphins (1-1)**

AFN-Xtra
11:30 p.m. Sunday CET
6:30 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Dolphins lead 13-12 and have won the past three meetings.

Last meeting: Miami won 31-3 on Nov. 6, 2011 at Kansas City.

Notes: Last week, RB Knile Davis had a career-high 105 scrimmage yards (79 rushing, 26 receiving) and tied a career-best with two TDs. Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill needs a TD pass to move past Don Strom for fourth in Dolphins history.



Pittsburgh Steelers (1-1)
at **Carolina Panthers (2-0)**

AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Monday CET
9:30 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Steelers lead 4-1, including winning the past four.

Last meeting: Host Pittsburgh won 27-3 on Dec. 23, 2010 when Ben Roethlisberger threw for 320 yards.

Notes: In 2 career starts against Carolina, Roethlisberger is 2-0 with 445 yards passing, two TDs and no interceptions. The Panthers have won eight straight regular-season home games.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Dallas at St. Louis
Minnesota at New Orleans
Washington at Philadelphia
Houston at N.Y. Giants
Tennessee at Cincinnati
Baltimore at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
Oakland at New England

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 25
N.Y. Giants at Washington Redskins
Sunday, Sept. 28
Green Bay at Chicago
Buffalo at Houston
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Carolina at Baltimore
Detroit at N.Y. Jets
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh
Miami at Oakland
Jacksonville at San Diego
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Atlanta at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Dallas
Monday, Sept. 29
New England at Kansas City

Also on AFN: San Francisco 49ers (1-1) at Arizona Cardinals (2-0), AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT; Chicago Bears (1-1) at N.Y. Giants (0-2), AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	AFC	NFC	Div
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	52	30	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Miami	1	1	0	.500	43	49	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43	45	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
New England	1	1	0	.500	50	40	0-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	47	20	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	36	36	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	27	75	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	51	61	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	47	26	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	42	29	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	36	53	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	53	54	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	55	41	2-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	47	39	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	28	49	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	27	50	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	AFC	NFC	Div
Philadelphia	2	0	0	1.000	64	44	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Washington	1	1	0	.500	47	27	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	43	38	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	28	60	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	44	21	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	47	58	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	58	63	0-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	31	39	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	48	43	0-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	41	36	0-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	38	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	47	60	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	43	31	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	57	46	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	48	45	1-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
St. Louis	1	1	0	.500	25	51	0-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0

SPORTS



September showdowns

AL, NL Central races could hinge on key weekend series | Page 60

NFL

Heads or tails?

Rushing QBs play off instinct when deciding how to finish out a run

By TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

When his quarterback takes off running, Tennessee Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt only worries if he picked up the first down and what play to call next. Kansas City coach Andy Reid wants the quarterback on the ground as soon as possible. Seahawks coach Pete Carroll doesn't want Russell Wilson hit but sees his quarterback running away from defenders when not in the pocket.

How the quarter-

back finishes off the run — sliding feet first or diving forward with the head — is only an issue when he gets hurt.

"It's just like telling your children to be smart when they drive their car," Whisenhunt said. "It's an important part of it, but once they're out there on the field, it's in their hands."

Being healthy enough to take the next snap is a crucial part of the job for an NFL quarterback.

SEE RUN ON PAGE 61

'It's just like telling your children to be smart when they drive their car. It's an important part of it, but once they're out there on the field, it's in their hands.'

Ken Whisenhunt

Titans head coach on advising quarterbacks on how to protect themselves while running

Being healthy enough to take the next snap and stay on the field is a crucial part of the job for an NFL quarterback. Yet for many of the mobile quarterbacks now in the league, such as the Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton, pictured here with Detroit Lions tackle Ndamukong Suh in pursuit, the simple act of sliding feet first to be protected by rule from defenders seems to be a lost art.

BOB LEVERONE/AP



BYU QB Hill's Heisman stock on rise | College football, Page 57



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